6

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Ace of Diamond act II

ダイヤのA act II

エース

寺嶋裕二

Presented by Yuji Terajima

マンガボックスの超人気作が出張掲載!

「白骨」をめぐるクライム・サスペンス!

骨が腐るまで

週刊少年マガジン

45
2016 10/19
WEEKLY SHONEN MAGAZINE

センター Cカラー 22P!

連載9周年特別企画!!

エーちゃんのリアルグッズに迫る!

『ベイビーステップ』

Cカラー 23P!

第1話からのお色気シーン総まとめ記事!

『ドメスティックな彼女』

2大企画

① 人気投票結果を大発表!

② 特別レポート!

小湊春市モデルのバットを「ミズノ」が制作!

ダイヤのA

そろそろ熱く!新章へ!

2ND MATCH

12:30

START

INASHIRO JITSUGYOU — TEITOU

ダイヤのA

THIS IS THE SECOND SEMIFINAL OF THE SPRING TOURNAMENT,

Previously: In the 1st semifinal of the Spring tournament, with participation in the Kanto tournament at stake, Ichidai Sankou dominated Seidou 3-5. The 2nd anticipated semifinal pits Inajitsu and Teitou, Narumiya and Mukai, against each other!

AND IN THIS GAME, YOU WILL SEE A CLASH BETWEEN TWO PITCHERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED KOUSHIEN AS FIRST YEARS,

AND WERE ENTRUSTED WITH THE ACE NUMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PRESTIGEOUS BASEBALL SCHOOLS STARTING FROM THEIR SECOND YEAR.

1

最新KC④巻
好評発売中!!!

NARUMIYA MEI,
HOLDING
THE TITLE OF NO.1
SOUTHPAW
OF THE KANTO
REGION

IS ABOUT TO BE
CHALLENGED BY
TEITOU'S YOUNG ACE,
MUKAI TAIYOI,
A YEAR HIS JUNIOR.

ダイヤのA act II

CHAPTER 47
GROUNDLESS PRIDE

寺嶋裕二

THIS IS A CLASH BETWEEN THE PRINCES OF EAST AND WEST!

BUT EVEN WHEN HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A TIGHT SPOT WITH 2 OUTS AND RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND...

MUKAI WAS A LITTLE STIFF IN THE GAME OPENER,

Both of them are the condescending type, and I can't get enough of this!

...TEITOU'S DEFENSE, PRIDING THEMSELVES ON THE TITLE OF 'THE IRON WALL',

DIDN'T ALLOW THE OPPONENTS TO SCORE.

NOT ALLOWING THE TEITOU LINEUP TO FIND A PITCH TO TARGET.

NARU-MIYA, ON THE OTHER HAND,

HAD EXCELLENT COMMAND OF HIS BREAKING BALLS ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY,

HE STARTED THE GAME FLAWLESSLY, NOT ALLOWING A SINGLE RUNNER UNTIL THE 3RD INNING.

4TH INNING

BALL.

WITH THIS, THE COUNT IS 3-1.

HE'S BEEN STRUGGLING AND PITCHING UNDER THE PRESSURE FROM RUNNERS HE KEEPS PUTTING ON BASE FROM THE VERY FIRST INNING...

YEAH, BECAUSE INAJITSU'S BATTERS STARTED TARGETING HIS FASTBALLS.

MUKAI STARTED MIXING IN MORE BREAKING BALLS...

INAJITSU SCORED WHAT, 5 CLEAN HITS OFF HIM SO FAR?

WHAT'S MORE, THEY KNOW NOT TO SWING ON HIS LOW BALLS.

BUT WELL, HE IS A PITCHER THAT HAS NO PROBLEM STAYING CALM AND COMPOSED UNTIL BALL 3.

IF ANYTHING, PITCHING WITH RUNNERS IS WHERE HIS REAL TENACITY SHOWS.

HIS TYPE OF PITCHER WON'T SERVE AS A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR YOU THOUGH.

STRIKE!

HEEY, SAWAMURA.

A SPOT OPENED UP NEXT TO US.

I HAVE A BETTER VIEW OF THE GAME FROM HERE, SO I'M FINE WHERE I AM, THANKS.

WITH THE COUNT OF 3-2...

2 OUTS, RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD.

STRIKE.

...MUKAI THREW A SCREWBALL FOR A BALL...

...SHOWCASING HIS PITCHING STYLE THAT EXPLOITS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE OF THE BATTER, WHO SEEKS TO AVOID A STRIKEOUT LOOKING, TO TURN TABLES ON HIM.

AND THIS IS WHERE MUKAI TAIYOU'S TRUE WORTH LIES.

IT WAS JUST BARELY OUTSIDE THE ZONE, TOO..

SOME REALLY IMPRESSIVE GUTS HE HAS

THROWING THE SCREWBALL THAT INAOITSU'S BATTERS PROVED TO BE CAPABLE OF IDENTIFYING,

IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS HUH

HOW-EVER ...

Such a brazen look he has! But that's what's good about him! Never change!

TO BEGIN WITH, HE WAS ALWAYS THE SMART TYPE OF PITCHER THAT USES ALL AVAILABLE PITCH COUNT TO BUILD HIS PITCH SEQUENCES,

SO THIS KIND OF GAMBLE IS WHAT HE HIMSELF SEEKS.

...ALL THE TEITOU LINEUP WAS ABLE TO DO WHEN FACED WITH NARUMIYA, WHO SHOWED ABSOLUTELY NO CHINKS IN HIS ARMOR FOR THEM TO TRY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF,

WAS TO SCORE ONE SHALLOW HIT OFF HIM.

DESPITE ONLY ZEROS RECORDED ON THE SCORE BOARD FOR BOTH TEAMS,

THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT AND EASE OF PUTTING THEM THERE WAS CLEARLY NOT THE SAME, WITH THE GAP ONLY GROWING WIDER...

THAT WAS WHEN THE INAJITSU BATTERS HAD FINALLY BROUGHT MUKAI DOWN.

AND THEN, THE GAME ENTERED ITS 6TH INNING.

THROUGH SHEER PERSEVERANCE, CARLOS MANAGED TO SEND THE BALL INTO CENTER FIELD.

WITH RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND,

SHIRAKAWA FOLLOWED SUIT AND HIT TO LEFT FIELD, EARNING CONSECUTIVE RBIS FOR HIS TEAM.

IN THE 7TH, TADANO ADDED ANOTHER RUN ON A SACRIFICE FLY,

AND INAJITSU'S LEAD EXPANDED TO 3 RUNS.

You almost made it! Just a little more!

DESPITE THAT,

THE ACE TRUSTED HIS TEAMMATES TO LAUNCH A COUNTER-ATTACK...

...AND CONTINUED TO STICK TO HIS PITCHING STYLE.

4

NICE THROW!

ALRIGHT!

YEAH!

Ouch...

NICE PITCH!

TAIYOU-SAN!!!

20

MUKAI-SAN!

2 OUTS!

C'MON, LET'S STOP 'EM HERE!

IT'S 2 OUTS!

I'VE NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION TO BEND MYSELF TO ANYONE'S WILL..

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES PEOPLE CALLED ME AUDACIOUS AND SELFISH,

PURSUING BASEBALL,

EVERY SINGLE DAY...

AND, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO HOLD ONTO IT,

I TRAINED HARDER THAN ANYONE ELSE,

THERE IS THIS GROUNDLESS PRIDE

DWELLING DEEP WITHIN MY CHEST...

...PURSUING THE ACE PITCHING

THAT NO ONE WOULD FIND LACKING ---

STRIKE!
BATTER
OUT!

A SCREWBALL
SEALS THIS
SWINGING
STRIKEOUT!!!

ダイヤのA act II

Previously In the 2nd semi final of the Spring Tournament Inashiro and Teitou clash. The game, that became a pitcher duel between the two aces, Yamamiya and Mukai, is at a stalemate until the 5th. In the 6th and 7th Inashiro's batters score 3 runs off Mukai, but Mukai staves off the continuing crisis with his ace willpower. With only three innings left, how will Teitou's batters respond to their ace's strong pitching?

CHAPTER 48
STILL IMMATURE

寺嶋裕二（てらしまゆうじ）

T
TEITO
IT'S...

IT'S OUT OF THE PARK!!!

IN RESPONSE TO THE ACE'S POWERFUL PITCHING, HIS HELPER AND SUPPORTER HITS A HOMERUN!

HIS TIMING FOR HITTING NARUMIYA MEI'S FASTBALL LEFT NOTHING TO BE DESIRED!

SCORING CONSECUTIVE HITS OFF A GOOD PITCHER S DIFFICULT.

A CHANCE TO SCORE IN THE FORM OF A HOMERUN IS OFTEN AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF AN ERROR ON THE PITCHER'S PART, SUT

WITH THIS, THE SCORE DIFFERENCE HAS SHRUNK TO 2 RUNS!

...IN THIS CASE, THE PITCH WAS BY NO MEANS A MEATBALL,

Go with a rawr! With a rawr!

AND WE CAN ONLY PRAISE INUI-KUN FOR THAT IMPRESSIVE HIT.

Once upon a time, grandma asked the future of a witch to deliver a pie in the middle of a pouring rain...

NOW, TEITOU WOULD WANT TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THIS CHANCE AND SCORE SOME MORE, WOULDN'T THEY

Mei-san Mei-san

Too long! Rejected!

AT EVERY CHANCE YOU GET - INCLUDING FROM THE BATTER'S BOX AND FROM BASE.

TO KEEP PUTTING PRESSURE ON HIM

THE KEY TO BRINGING NARUMIYA DOWN IS

JUST LOOK AT HIM - HE'S ROYALLY PISSED OFF!

THIS SIDE OF HIM DIDN'T CHANGE AT ALL!

THE COUNT IS 3-1.

IF THAT BATTER DOES MANAGE TO GET ON BASE HERE, IT MIGHT LIVEN THINGS UP IN AN INTRIGUING WAY

STRIKE! BATTER OUT!

Don't get out of control!

THE PITCHER DUEL BETWEEN THE TWO ACES

HAD ENTERED ITS FINAL ACT---

WITH THE PITCH COUNT BEING 115 FOR THEM,

THE TEITOU BATTERY SWITCHED BACK TO CENTERING THEIR PITCHING AROUND FASTBALL,

LOCATING THEIR PITCHES NOT ONLY TO THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CORNERS,

BUT ALSO USING THE HIGH AND LOW OF THE STRIKE ZONE TO THROW THE BATTERS OFF.

AS A RESULT, EVEN UP AGAINST THE TOP OF THE INAJITSU LINEUP, THEY ENDED THE INNING IN 3 BATTERS CLEAN

AND CONNECTED IT TO THEIR TEAM'S OFFENSE IN THE 8TH IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE---

HOW-EVER

楽天

DESPITE NARUMIYA'S CONTROL DESTABILIZING SOMEWHAT DUE TO THE EARLIER HOMERUN,

IN THE 8TH HE MANAGED TO RETIRE TWO BATTERS BEFORE LONG.

WITH 2 OUTS, THE ONE TO TAKE THE PLATE WAS MUKAI, BATTING 8TH.

WASH

FLIC

MEI-
SAN
...

IT'S NOT THE END.

NOTHING IS OVER YET.

TEITO

1

I WILL GET ON BASE AND---

BALL!

Nhn...

THAT'S WHEN NARUMIYA,

WANTING TO SHOW OFF HIS POWER

OR, PERHAPS, TRYING TO SEND A MESSAGE...

...THREW HIS ENTIRE REPERTOIRE TO THE OPPOSING TEAM'S ACE,

WHO WAS HITLESS UNTIL THEN AND HARDLY POSED MUCH OF A THREAT,

COMPLETELY SHUTTING HIM OUT WITH ALL OF HIS MIGHT.

IN THIS GAME, THAT PITTED THE POWER-HOUSES OF EAST AND WEST AGAINST EACH OTHER,

THE ACE OF WEST, WHO HAD EXPERIENCED KOUSHIEN TWICE, WAS DECLARED WINNER.

Don't mention it. I wasn't even remotely serious anyway.

Thank you for your kind demonstration of immature pitching...

squeeze hard

INASHIRO

TOKYO

Let's go, Mei!

Taiyou!

パ
パ
パ
パ
パ
パ

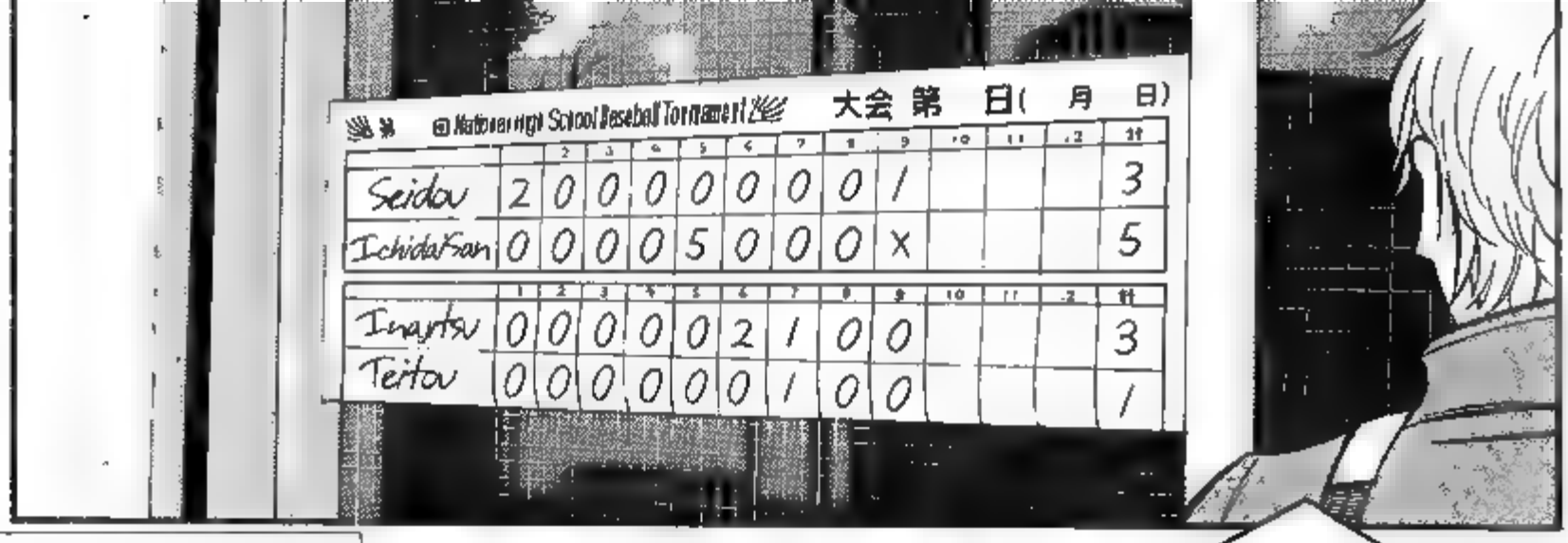
Okay! Fine, whatever! What are you, a kid?!

I went easy on you! Don't you forget it!

Mei-san!

THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEXT DAY'S FINAL HAD BEEN DETERMINED:

THEY WERE ICHIDAI SANKOU AND INAJITSU JITSUGYOU.


National High School Baseball Tournament 大会 第 日(月 日)
Seidou 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 3
IchidaSan 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 X 5
Inashiro 0 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 3
Teitou 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1

Previously The 2nd seminfinal of the Spring Tournament had turned into a showdown between the aces of prestigious schools, and Inajitsu, led by Narumiya crushed Teitou, headed by Mukai 3 to . The participants of next day's final emerged Inajitsu and Ichidai

CAN I GO WATCH TOMORROW'S GAME IN PERSON...?

ダイヤのA act II

CHAPTER 49
3 MONTHS

寺嶋裕二

SURE. I'M PLANNING TO TAKE NABE AND GO WATCH IT MYSELF, TOO.

In my opinion, I definitely should watch it...

NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU PITCHERS MAY PERFORM,

AS LONG AS OUR BATTERS CAN'T SCORE, WE WON'T REACH KOUSHIEN...

EIJUN-KUN,

DO YOU HAVE PLANS FOR TOMOR-ROW?

INASHIRO

FURUYA-KUN SAYS HE'S GOING TO GO WATCH THE FINAL, YOU KNOW.

REVIEW... REVIEW HIS PITCHING TODAY...

FOR ME, JUST THE VIDEO WILL SUFFICE, I GUESS.

...HARU-ICHI.

BESIDES, I STILL NEED TO REVIEW TODAY'S GAME...

IT REALLY DRIVES IT HOME, DOESN'T IT, THAT AN ACE GOTTA BE COOL...

CERTA INLY

I WILL CONTACT THE TEAMS THAT SENT US THESE REQUESTS

THE SCHEDULE WILL NEED TO BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING-LY

I UNDERSTAND HOW IT COULD STRIKE A CERTAIN CHORD

?

I SEE NOW...

FOR FURUYA TO EXPRESS SOME-THING LIKE THIS

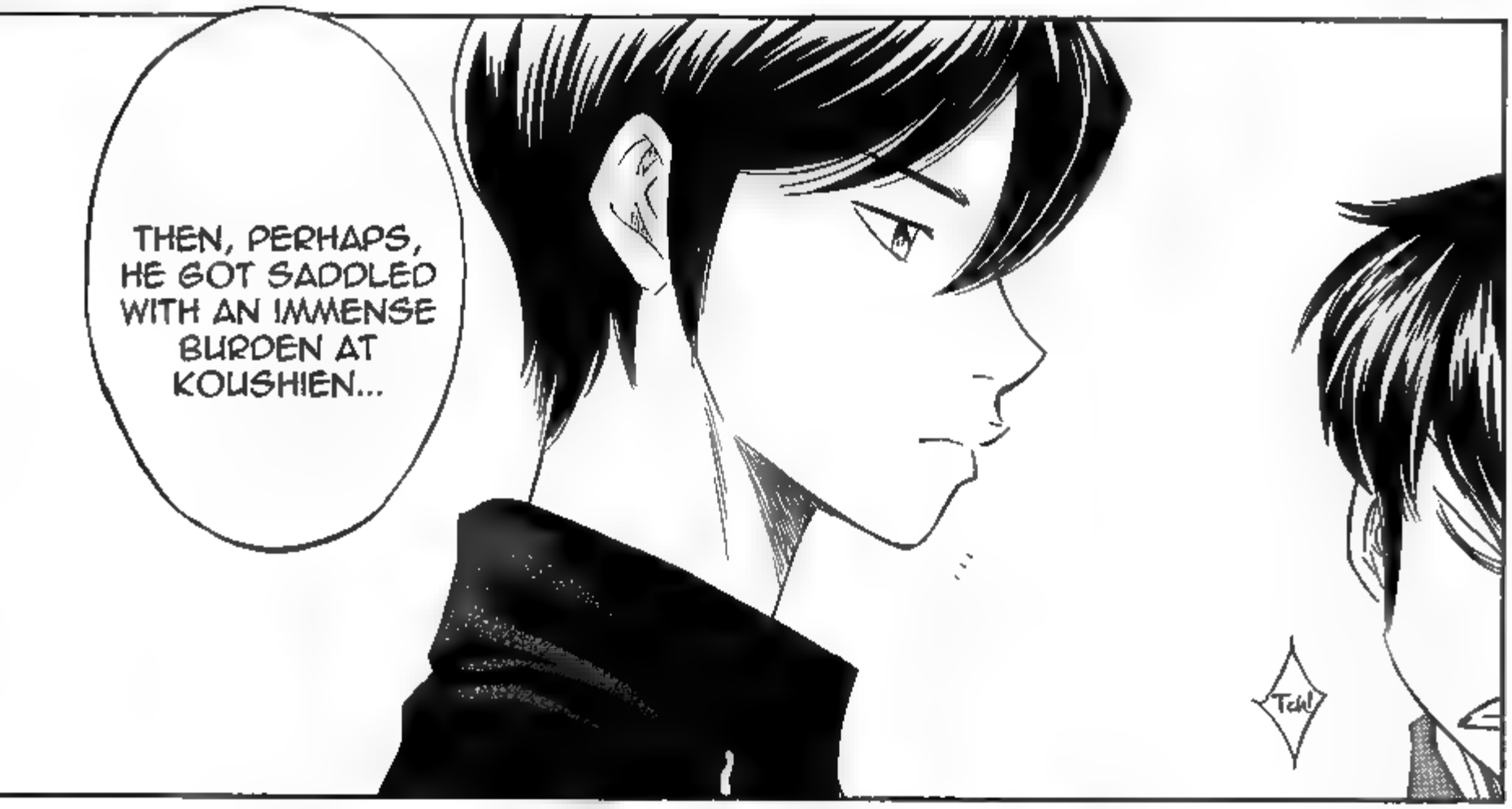
THIS IS WHAT INFLUENCED YOUR STARTING PITCHER CHOICE AND THE TIMING FOR RELIEVING IN TODAY'S GAME, ISN'T IT...

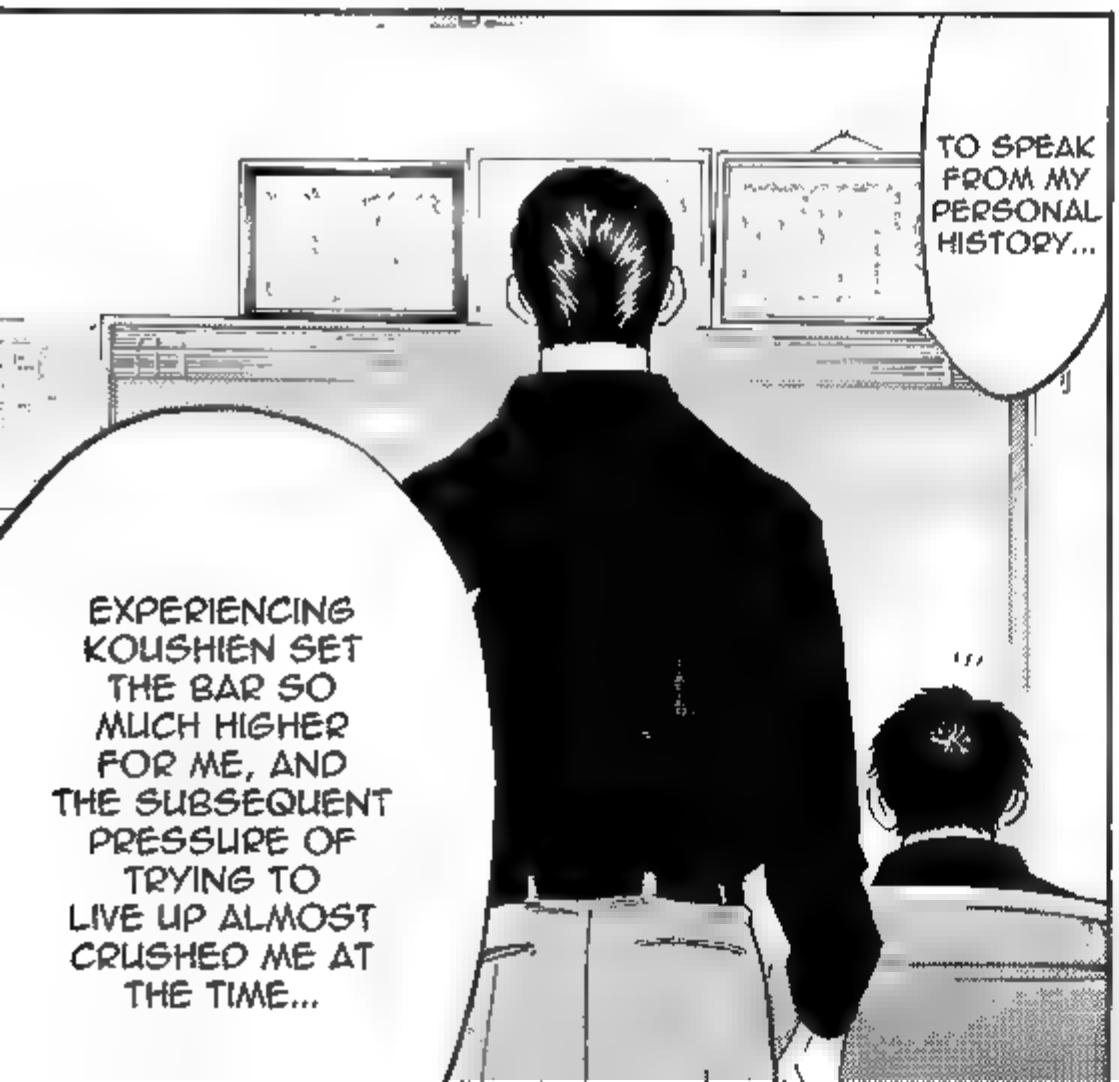
If I can become the best pitcher in Japan,

I will be able to make the team the best in Japan.

I SUPPOSE IT MEANS YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN LIKE THE REST OF US, COACH KATAOKA...

nod
Wanna watch?
IF NOT JUST THOSE AROUND HIM BUT FURUYA HIMSELF AS WELL HAD STARTED SEEING THE PITCHING HE SHOWED AT SENBATSU AS THE STANDARD FOR HIMSELF...


THEN, PERHAPS, HE GOT SADDLED WITH AN IMMENSE BURDEN AT KOUSHIEN...
Tch!


TO SPEAK FROM MY PERSONAL HISTORY...
EXPERIENCING KOUSHIEN SET THE BAR SO MUCH HIGHER FOR ME, AND THE SUBSEQUENT PRESSURE OF TRYING TO LIVE UP ALMOST CRUSHED ME AT THE TIME...

...

Don't sweat it! Just take a seat already!
You clicked your tongue at me just now, didn't you...

NOT THAT I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING HERE, CONSIDERING THAT IT WAS ME WHO CARELESSLY SPURRED HIM ON A WHILE AGO WITH THE CLAIM THAT HE CAN BECOME THE BEST PITCHER IN JAPAN.

I CAN ONLY ENVY YOU AS IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS ONLY A RESERVE CATCHER WHO DIDN'T GET TO EXPERIENCE KOUSHIEN.

FIGURES, SINCE YOU WERE A KOUSHIEN RUNNER-UP PITCHER.

THAT PRESSURE IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME ON YOUR OWN.

.....

...HOW-EVER,

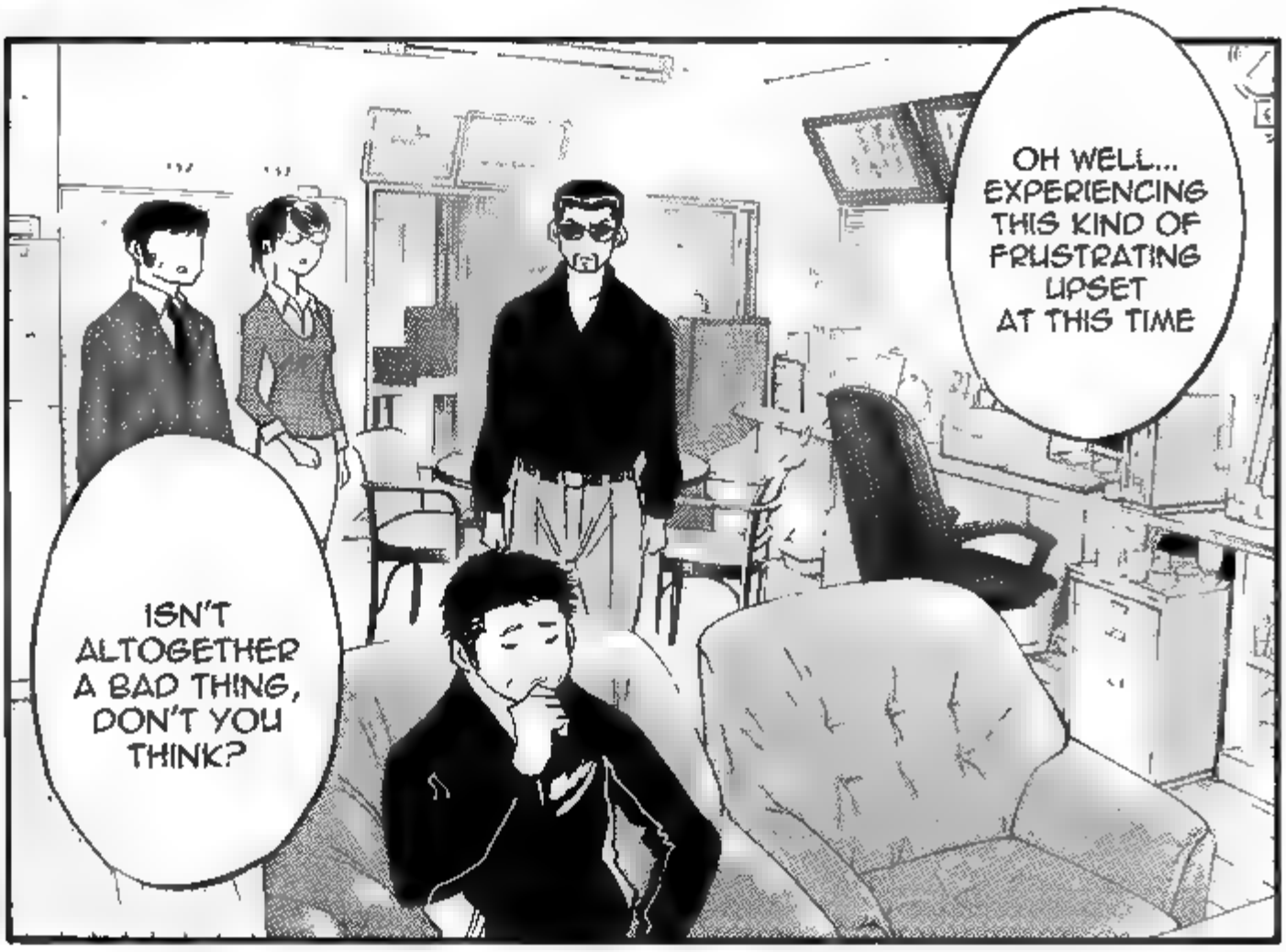
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE...

I REALLY DID VERY WRONG BY THE PLAYERS I HAD GET READY AND STAND BY.

THE QUESTION IS IN WHAT WAY IT WILL AFFECT THE TEAM FROM NOW ON...

HIS PERFORMANCE HAD TO HAVE LEFT A DEEP AND LASTING IMPRESSION NOT ONLY ON THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM BUT ON THE AUDIENCE AS WELL.

...IN TODAY'S GAME, SAWAMURA HAS ESTABLISHED WITH AN IMPACT HIS PRESENCE AS A PITCHER.



今日学べ　終始一誠意

...THE FACT THAT WE COULD ONLY SCORE 1 RUN IN THE AFTERMATH STANDS UNCHANGED.

AS SUCH, THE FIELDERS HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS WELL, IN MY OPINION.

I PROPOSE THAT INSTEAD OF DEFENDING THE THRONE AS THE KINGS,

WE SHOULD ALL BECOME THE DARING CHALLENGERS AGAIN, GUNNING FOR THE TOP.

...NO OBJEC-TION.

LET US USE THIS CHANCE TO GET A FRESH START IN PREPARATION FOR SUMMER.

BUT I SINCERELY HOPE THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON YOUR INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE DESPITE THAT

I MAY BE LACKING AS A COACH...

Seido

……

18

ALTHOUGH HE CAN BE A PAIN IN THE ASS SOMETIMES, ADMITTEDLY

It's the perfect weather for morning practice, eh!!!

Rise and shine!

What time is it

HIS ALWAYS POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE PERSONALITY NATURALLY MAKES HIM WORTHY OF EVERYONE'S RESPECT.

DARAAA

I WAS SURE I BORE WITNESS TO SAWAMURA'S HARD WORK EVERY STEP OF THE WAY...

HAVE I HAD THE IMAGE OF HIM ACTUALLY SHOULDERING THE ACE NUMBER UNTIL NOW?

BUT...

TODAY, ON THE MOUND,

HIS BEARING WAS THAT OF AN ACE, THROUGH AND THROUGH.

SO WHAT I'M PURSUING IS THE KIND OF PITCHING THAT WILL SURPASS WHAT I SHOWED ON THAT DAY.

I LIKE YOU!

HAHAHA! HOW AMUSING!

PLEASE DON'T DISAPPOINT ME,

MIYUKI-SENPAI.

I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYONE BEAT ME IN THE STRENGTH OF THIS DESIRE!

I CAME HERE TO BECOME THE ACE!

I WILL FOLLOW MIYUKI-SENPAI'S DIRECTIONS

HAVE YOU TRIED CATCHING FOR FURUYA-KUN ALREADY?

WE CAN ONLY

PUSH ON FORWARD NOW

HUH?

THEN, I CAN GO ALL OUT WITH MY PITCHES?

I SEE

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ? NOT MY WELL-BEING . ?

I'M RELIEVED

AH-WHY ARE YOU SITTING WITH HER!!

EXCUSE ME

HEY I'M YOUR SENPAI, YA KNOW

ME ~~~~!!

PLEASE ALLOW ME

TO TAKE THE MOUND IN THE LAST INNING

I CAN PLAY BASEBALL WITH THEM FOR ONLY 3 MORE MONTHS, HUH...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

YOU'RE SWINGING YOUR BAT IN SECRET AND AWAY FROM EVERYONE'S EYES AGAIN, HUH...

DO YOU REALLY HATE PEOPLE SEEING YOU ACTUALLY MAKE EFFORT THAT MUCH, OR WHAT?

Previously, Seidou lost in the semifinal of the Spring Tournament. The leaders including the head coach, as well as the players starting with Kuroki are trying to process the loss and make the first step towards the summer.

CHAPTER 50
WE CAN'T LOSE EITHER

寺嶋裕二

I'M SURE YOU NOTICED, BUT SAWAMURA WATCHED THE INAJITSU VS TEITOU MATCH SITTING AWAY FROM US, ALL BY HIMSELF

DO YOU RECKON HE MIGHT BE ANGRY WITH US

FOR FAILING TO SCORE MORE RUNS OR WHAT ..?

BUT WELL, IT DOES FEEL LIKE A NICE KICK GOT DELIVERED TO OUR SORRY BEHINDS, GETTING THE 'PULL YOUR SHIT TOGETHER' MESSAGE ACROSS LOUD AND CLEAR

HE DID DO A GREAT JOB NOT ONLY AT PITCHING, BUT, SURPRISINGLY, AT BATTING, TOO,

I KNOW, RIGHT?

LEAVING NOTHING MORE TO BE DESIRED, REALLY

...

I WONDER ...

Tch!

IF ONLY I MANAGED TO LAND A HIT AT THE TIME, IT MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY...

SHIT!

WHAT, NEED SOMEONE TO VENT YOUR FRUSTRA-TIONS TO?

OK, I'LL LEND YOU MY EAR ♡

AS YOUR CAPTAIN, I'LL LISTEN TO YOU GRUMBLE

LIKE HELL I DO!

JUST SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU JERK!

AND DON'T MAKE SUCH OFFERES WHILE SMIRKING IN THAT MOCKING WAY OF YOURS!

EVEN THOUGH I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ACE...

...FOR LEAVING THE MOUND IN SUCH BAD SHAPE WITH ALL THOSE RUNNERS ON BASE.

SORRY ...

IF ANYTHING, IT'S ALL MY FAULT BECAUSE I'VE FAILED TO CHANGE ANYTHING!

THAT MESS DOESN'T EVEN COUNT AS A BIND IN MY BOOK.

WHAT, GOT A PROB-LEM?!

WHAT IS EVEN THAT

I'VE COMPLETELY FAILED TO FULFIL MY DUTY AS THE ACE.

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M THE CAUSE OF OUR DEFEAT.

IF ONLY I'D HIT A HOMERUN, WE'D HAVE WON!!!

...MAYBE.

NO!!! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!!

ACE THIS, ACE THAT, SHOVE IT ALREADY!

THEN, AS THE ACE, IT'S MY ---

BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED IF I HAD PULLED OFF A TURNAROUND AFTER THAT.

NO, I'M NOT. IT'S TRUE THAT YOU WERE TERRIBLE OUT THERE.

ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?

...THAT REASONING IS PISSING ME OFF SO MUCH.

I'M NOT RELIABLE, THAT'S WHY WE LOST.

IF I WERE MORE RELIABLE AS A PITCHER, THE SWITCH WOULD'VE BEEN MADE IN A JIFFY.

IN THIS SENSE, IT'S MY FAULT.

THEY'RE SUCH SORE LOSERS THAT THEY'RE CONTESTING EVEN THE BLAME FOR THE DEFEAT~~~ ~~~~~~~~

UWAA AAAH!

NO, MINE.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

I'M TO BLAME.

NO, I AM.

ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!

YEAH, WHAT-EVER.

NABE-SAN...

I'M TOTALLY CALM THOUGH !!!

IF YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR CALM WHEN REVIEWING THE MATCH, LET'S JUST BE DONE WITH THIS ORDEAL.

IN ANY CASE, EVERYONE'S STARTED GATHERING ALREADY,

AND IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE MEETING.

Mn... Everything's fine!

Nabe-chan, what happened here-?

THE AIR SURE IS CRACK-ING

SO THIS IS WHAT THE MOOD AFTER A DEFEAT IS LIKE, HUH.

...

THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST OUT OF THIS WORLD.

AS IF ANYONE WOULD FIGHT OVER THE BLAME FOR THE DEFEAT NORMALLY ...!

PM 6:00
THE MEETING STARTS
TODAY, YOU SCORED 2 RUNS IN THE FIRST INNING,
AND 1 RUN THROUGH SHEER PERSEVERANCE IN THE LAST.
IT MAKES IT ONLY 3 RUNS IN TOTAL, BUT I THINK YOU WERE ABLE TO SHOW OUR OPPONENTS, AMONG OTHERS, YOUR DETERMINATION TO ATTACK.
YES, SIR!
今日学べ
THE WEST BLOCK HAS QUITE A NUMBER OF GOOD PITCHERS.
LET US STRIVE TO BECOME BATTERS THAT CAN PULL THROUGH A CLUTCH AND MAKE FULL USE OF THE FEW CHANCES TO SCORE THOSE PITCHERS ALLOW.
今日学べ
EVEN IF YOU WERE STILL RETIRED IN THE END, YOU DID MANAGE TO KEEP THE OPPONENTS UNDER UNYIELDING PRESSURE.
YOU DID NOT SWING AT BALLS,
YOU TRIED TO THINK UP WAYS TO ADVANCE THE RUNNERS,
AND YOU DEMONSTRATED THE POWER AND SPEED OF YOUR SWINGS.

WE CERTAINLY HAVE A LOT TO THINK ABOUT, INCLUDING THE RELIEVING DECISIONS.

AS TO OUR DEFENSE,

AS SUCH, NEITHER OFFENSE NOR DEFENSE COULD CREATE THE NECESSARY RHYTHM.

FURUYA PITCHED WITH TENACITY DESPITE HIS BAD CONDITION, BUT EVEN WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT,

HE GAVE UP TOO MANY FREE WALKS.

Seido

BUT WHEN THINGS WERE LOOKING BLEAKER BY THE MINUTE, SAWAMURA'S PITCHING REVITALIZED THE TEAM!

ON A GOOD DAY AND A BAD DAY ALIKE...

...AN ACE IS SOMEONE WHO STANDS ON THE MOUND, SHOULDERING THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL OF HIS TEAMMATES REGARDLESS.

THIS IS MY VIEW OF IT.

AND NOW, WE HAVE 3 MONTHS LEFT TILL THE CRUCIAL SUMMER BATTLE.

...

AS OF NOW, THE JERSEY NUMBERS ARE REVOKED AND RESET!

I WILL SELECT 20 PLAYERS ANEW TO MAKE UP THE SUMMER ROSTER,

AND MY DECISION WILL DEPEND ON ON THE RESULTS THAT YOU WILL SHOW IN THESE 3 MONTHS, AS WELL AS YOUR EVERYDAY ATTITUDE!

REGARDLESS OF WHO MIGHT GET CHOSEN IN THE END, I WANT ALL OF YOU TO SPEND YOUR DAYS IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOU WILL HAVE NO REGRETS LEFT.

ESPECIALLY YOU THIRD YEARS,

YES, SIR!

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, I EXPECT YOU TO ASSEMBLE ON THE FIELD AT 8 A.M, INCLUDING THE FIRST YEARS

REGARDING TOMORROW'S PRACTICE, THE MEMBERS OF THE MAIN FORCE WILL HAVE A DAY OFF

IF SOME OF YOU WISH TO GO WATCH THE FINAL, FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

BOTH OF THEIR TEAMS HAVE SECURED THE RIGHT TO PLAY N THE KANTO TOURNAMENT, SO THERE'S NO REAL REASON FOR EITHER OF THEM TO BE STARTING, NO?

WILL NARUMIYA AND AMAHISA BE EVEN PITCHING, I HAVE TO WONDER..

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TOM-ORROW?

NABE... I WANT YOU TO COME WITH US TOMORROW.

OK, GOT IT.

...YES.

YOU HEARD THEM, FURUYA. STILL WANNA GO?

CAN I COME TO YOUR ROOM LATER?

MIYUKI-SENPAI.

.EH?

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS! SINCE I'M NOT GOING TOMORROW!

..HEY, SAY, WHAT ABOUT TOMOR-ROW?

I HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING TODAY'S MATCH!

.QUES-TIONS?

I WILL DROP BY AT 8!!!

OH REALLY

WAY TOO MANY PESKY 'SINCE'

SINCE I'LL BE SWINGING MY BAT LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW UNTIL MY PALMS ARE ALL IN BLISTERS!

SINCE NEVER HAVE I BEEN MADE MORE KEENLY AWARE OF MY LACK OF BATTING POWER THAN TODAY!

WELL, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE NOTE-WORTHY TODAY.

HE SURE IS FIRED UP, HUH.

NOW, TO EAT DINNER!

HE'S DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT GOING FOR THE ACE NUMBER, AIN'T HE?

nFuh

THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER.

HE WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GAME-CALLING.

今日学

?

GUESS SO?

YUP, HE'S ANGRY ...

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF AN EAR-FUL HE'S GONNA GIVE ME

WELL, I WAS JUST MINDLESSLY THROWING TO WHERE MIYUKI-SENPAI WAS POINTING, NOTHING MORE.

EH? YOU'RE NOT FEELING ANY SATISFACTION EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE INCREDIBLE TODAY?

Nabe...

...EH?

IF I LEAVE THINGS LIKE THAT, HE'LL NEVER TRULY ACKNOWLEDGE ME...

THAT'S WHY, WHEN I THROW, I GOTTA LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS BEHIND MIYUKI-SENPAI'S CHOOSING THE PITCHES HE CALLS---

HE DID, HUH?

FOR REAL?

IF YOU ASK ME, THAT'S WHAT HE WAS MULLING OVER WHEN HE WATCHED THE GAME ALONE.

AND IT ALSO SEEMS LIKE HE SENSED SOMETHING IN NARUMIYA AND MUKAI'S PITCHING...

SAWAMURA...

THAT WAY OF THINKING IS TYPICAL SAWAMURA...

WE CAN'T LOSE EITHER.

WE CAN'T LOSE TO HIM EITHER,

RIGHT, GUYS?

THAT'S RIGHT!

EXCEEDING OUR EXPECTATIONS

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN

WE GOTTA MAKE IT TO KOUGUEN FOR SURE!!!

THIS IS WHERE THE REAL FIGHT BEGINS!!!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I, TOO, GOTTA RESPOND TO HIM IN KIND, WITH MY EVERYTHING.

IN THE END, WE'LL BE THE ONES TO WI~~~~N!!!

ZONO, YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE SAWAMURA

10 YEAR RUN

THE 1ST ダイヤのA CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRONG SUPPORT!

RESULTS REVEALED!!!

SEIDOU HIGH'S CAPTAIN BRIDGEWATER CLAIMS THE TOP AS THE FIRST RUN!

TA-DAN! THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST IS **28,358** VOTES!!!

1 PLACE 1位 **6,462** VOTES

MIYUKI KAZUYA

御幸一也

FANS' COMMENTS

I simply can't take my eyes off him because of his tendency to carry all the burdens by himself and to feel somewhat out of his element when he is away from the baseball team! (M, Aichi pref)
The captain and the 4th batter! He's Seidou High's backbone! (I, Kumamoto pref)
I sincerely believe that he will be able to reach Koushien this summer! (Y, Tokyo)

2 PLACE 2位 **6,350** VOTES

SAWAMURA EIJUN

沢村栄純

FANS' COMMENTS

I can't have enough of Sawamura being cool and never giving up, always facing any walls, however impregnable they are, head-on with his everything! (M, Chiba pref)
I simply fell for Eijun's attitude as the boy who always does his best! (K, Chiba pref.)
I absolutely love it how straightforward and honest Sawamura Eijun's baseball is! (Y, Akita pref)

3 PLACE 3位 **2,408** VOTES

KURAMOCHI YOUICHI

倉持洋一

FANS' COMMENTS

What I love about him is his childish streak and his caring attitude towards his teammates! (O, Miyazaki pref)
At a glance, he looks like he's fooling around, but he is actually kind and caring about those around him, and I love it about Kuramochi! (A, Kagoshima pref)
I want him to become a leader for Seidou who can pull them in both offense and defense! (S, Tokyo)

ダイヤのA エース II

CHAPTER 51
I LIKE THAT_LOOK BETTER

寺嶋裕二

PLACES 4–10 ALSO REVEALED!

5位 PLACE

FURUYA SATORU

降谷暁

1,627 VOTES

I'm charmed with his zeal so much that I look up to him (T, Nakagawa pref.)
I like it how he never stops, looking only ahead! (K, Yamaguchi pref.)
I want to know if he can call his teammates by the names now! (K, Kanagawa pref.)

4位 PLACE

KOMINATO HARUICHI

小湊春市

2,082 VOTES

Harucchi, hands down! (K, Tokyo)
The reliable feeling from when he appeared is just... (M, Gifu pref.)
He's become even cooler after cutting his bangs! (S, Tokyo)

8位 PLACE

NARUMIYA MEI

成宮鳴

963 VOTES

I admire his so very powerful pitching! (K, Shizuoka pref.)
Prince of the Capital, I'm rooting for you!!! (O, Oosaka pref)

7位 PLACE

KOMINATO RYOSUKE

小湊亮介

1,171 VOTES

He's got a sharp tongue but is kind, and I love it! (F, Ooita pref.)
I want to see Ryou-san with cut bangs! (K, Toyama pref.)

6位 PLACE

TAKIGAWA CHRIS YU

滝川・クリス・優

1,457 VOTES

The moment when light returned to Chris' eyes was great' (I, Saitama pref)
I respect him so much that I end up referring to him as 'Chris-senpai' even though he's younger than me (T, Saitama pref)

EVERYONE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US IN THE FUTURE, TOO!

PLACES FROM 11TH DOWN ARE REVEALED AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER! BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!

I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET INTO THE TOP 10 NEXT TIME...

42位 PLACE

MAEZONO KENTA

前園健太

26 VOTES

YUKI TETSUYA

結城哲也

891 VOTES

9位 PLACE

I love Tetsu-san's words, "Practice doesn't lie"! (S, Aichi pref.)

10位 PLACE

ISASHIKI JUN

伊佐敷純

787 VOTES

Do your best at baseball, even in Kaisai! (A, Tokyo)

TOKYO METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

1ST MATCH　13:00　START

3RD BASE SIDE　1ST BASE SIDE

INASHIRO JITSUGYOU — ICHIDAI SANKOU

METROPOLITAN SPRING TOURNAMENT

FINAL

Previously The jersey numbers are revoked! With coach Kataoka's words of encouragement, a survival race among the members of Seidou High baseball team to get on the summer roster begins. On the same day, captain Ayuki resolves to take Japan's top spot to reply to Sawamura and Furuya's growth in kind.

AS MANY HAD PREDICTED ...

...NETHER OF THE TEAMS STARTED THEIR RESPECTIVE ACES.

It's all on you~

Hiranocchi~

WHAT?!

Sorry..

Toshi-chan, I woke up with a crick in my neck.

AND FOR ICHIDAI SANKOU MISAKI TATSUYA, ALSO A THIRD YEAR.

FOR INASHIRO JITSUGYOU THE STARTING PITCHER WAS HIRANO KEIJI, A THIRD YEAR,

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE YOURSELF ON THE MOUND, YOU CAN LEARN QUITE A FEW THINGS FROM THIS MATCH.

AND WHAT KIND OF TRICKS THE RUNNERS RESORT TO WHEN THEY'RE ON BASE.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THINGS LIKE WHAT PITCHES THE OPPONENTS CHOOSE TO TARGET

THE ACES' PITCHING ISN'T THE ONLY THING WORTH CHECKING OUT.

THAT'S THE REASON WHY WE ALWAYS TRY TO THOROUGHLY ANALYZE AND PROFILE OUR POTENTIAL OPPONENTS.

BESIDES, IF YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR CALM AND PLAY UNDER LESS PRESSURE...

IN THE 3RD INNING

A TWO RUN HOMERUN BY INAJITSU'S 4TH BATTER, YAMAOKA, HAD BECOME THE SPARK FOR THINGS TO BEGIN MOVING.

むん

INASHIRO

Hirano-san

INASHIRO

NARUMIYA AND TADANO FOLLOWED SUIT WITH TWO LONG HITS, RESULTING IN INAJITSU SEIZING A 3 RUN LEAD.

INASHIRO

INASHIRO

HOWEVER, IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SAME INNING, ICHIDAI IMMEDIATELY TOOK 1 RUN BACK,

REFUSING TO GIVE UP THE INITIATIVE SO EASILY.

6

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THE GAME WAS SLOWLY BUT SURELY TURNING INTO A HITTING BATTLE.

MORNING

THE SEIDOU FIELD

THE DAY BEFORE

EVENING

SO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PITCH CALLING, I TAKE IT?

THAT'S RIGHT!

THEN, DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PITCH SEQUENCE AND PITCH CALLING?

OK, THAT'S WHERE WE'LL START THEN, I GUESS.

OUR HUMBLE ABODE SURE HAS A LOT OF VISITORS TODAY, HUH~~

AND MAKE IT EASY TO UNDERSTAND! LIKE, SERIOUSLY!

WHATCHA BEING MAD FOR?

.....

...HUH?

DIFFE ?

LIKE DI-FFERENT READ-INGS?

HUH?!

YOU LOOK LIKE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME HEARING THERE IS A DIFFERENCE..

THEN PITCH CALLING IS WHAT YOU ARRIVE TO WHEN YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THINGS LIKE THE PITCHER'S CONDITION ON A GIVEN DAY, THE PITCHES THAT THE OPPONENTS COME TARGETING AND THE BATTER'S CURRENT STATE.

IF A PITCH SEQUENCE IS WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THEORETICAL PITCH PATTERNS THAT CAN BE BUILT BASED ON THE AVAILABLE DATA AND THE PITCHER'S REPERTOIRE.

PITCH CALLING

APPLIED STRATEGY

PITCH SEQUENCE

LOGIC IN THEORY

SHOULD YOU FIGHT IN THE ZONE EVEN IF THERE IS A RISK OF A MEATBALL?

CAN YOU AFFORD TO WALK THE BATTER YOU'RE FACING AT ALL?

IT DEPENDS ON MANY THINGS, LIKE, ARE THERE RUNNERS? WHAT IS THE COUNT?

WHAT INNING ARE YOU IN? WHAT'S THE SCORE?

THE CATCHER IS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO CALL FOR THE PITCHER'S ONLY USUABLE CORE PITCH

IN THE FIRST PLACE IF THE PITCHER CAN'T EVEN THROW A STRIKE,

Hey! That's a dig at you, Furuya!

...

A CATCHER WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN HIS PITCHER UNDERSTANDING WHAT HE HAS IN MIND, REALLY. BUT...

IN PRACTICE, THERE'S NO WAY EVERY SINGLE PITCH WILL GO WHERE THE CATCHER WANTS IT TO,

AND THINGS LIKE THE COUNT, THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE GAME SITUATION AS A WHOLE CHANGE WITH EVERY PITCH THROWN.

THAT'S WHY PITCH CALLING IS OFTEN ASSESSED IN HINDSIGHT, AFTER YOU KNOW HOW THINGS TURNED OUT.

ALTERNATIVELY IF THE BATTER IS RETIRED ON THE PITCHES YOU CALLED, IT'S ALL GOOD, NO MATTER HOW WEAK THOSE PITCHES MAY BE

ALSO, REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF CALCULATIONS YOU BASE YOUR CHOICE OF THE PITCH TO CALL ON, IF THAT PITCH IS HIT, IT MEANS YOU WERE WRONG.

DESPITE THAT, I BELIEVE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE NEAR PERFECT PITCH CALLING THAT ALMOST ALWAYS TURNS OUT RIGHT.

FIGURING OUT HOW TO PRODUCE IT IS THE DUTY OF THE CATCHER

AND I PERSONALLY STRIVE TO HAVE MY PITCHER THROW ONLY THOSE PITCHES THAT HE WOULD FIND SATISFYING

THE PITCHER AND THE CATCHER BECOME ONE TO CREATE A WORK OF ART TOGETHER

THAT'S WHAT THE BEST PITCHING IS.

A WORK OF ART?

...

OKAY THEN, LET'S START WITH PITCH CALLING 101 SPECIALLY FOR DUMMIES.

EH? WE'RE STARTING WITH SOMETHING SO BASIC?

WELL, DUH.

CAUSE PITCH CALLING IS DEEPER THAN YOU THINK.

HE CAN MAKE CONTACT NOW,

FROM THE SLUG BUNT STANCE.

Ohh ~

A PITCHER IS SOMEONE WHO IS CAPABLE OF STANDING ON THE MOUND WHILE SHOULDERING HIS TEAM'S EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE FEELINGS OF THE PLAYERS WHO DON'T GET TO PLAY.

BASEBALL IS A SPORT WHERE THE PITCHER INITIATES PLAYS, BY THROWING THE BALL.

AND IT IS THE PITCHER, WHO GETS TO HOLD THE BALL LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE, SO HE HAS TO BE THE MOST WELL-VERSED ABOUT BASEBALL PLAYER ON THE TEAM.

FUH

AND I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE PENETRATING MY BEING DEEPER AND DEEPER...

ALL THE WORDS SAID TO ME IN THAT PERIOD KEEP COMING BACK SO CLEAR...

ANYONE WHO GETS TO STAND ON THE MOUND IN THE FINAL IS AN ACE.

TO GET STRONGER NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES BUT FOR ALL THOSE WHO DIDN'T GET CHOSEN.

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO US NOW:

DEEPER.

JUST WHAT IS YOUR OWN UNIQUE STRENGTH?

YOU ARE THE ONE GUY I'D ABSOLUTELY HATE TO ENTRUST THE 3 YEARS WE'VE SPEND HERE TO.

I NEED THEM TO SOAK INTO ME-EVEN DEEPER

AND THEN MELT INSIDE.

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	0	0	1	0	0	0	1			

IN THE TOP OF THE 7TH,

THANKS TO TADANO'S RBI, HIS TEAM'S LEAD GREW TO 2 RUNS AGAIN.

THAT WAS WHEN INAJITSU SENT THEIR ACE TO THE MOUND...

ALTHOUGH ICHIDAI'S THIRD BATTER, MIYAGAWA, GOT A DOUBLE OFF THE JUST PUT-IN ACE,

TILL THE END, THAT HIT REMAINED THE ONLY ONE NARUMIYA HAD ALLOWED...

ICHIDAI TRIED TO PERSEVERE AND FIGHT BACK, BUT THE ATTEMPT WAS SHUT DOWN...

...RESULTING IN INASHIRO JITSUGYOU CLAIMING THE TITLE OF THE SPRING CHAMPIONS FOR THEMSELVES...

INAJITSU WON ALRIGHT, BUT THEY CAN HARDLY FEEL AT EASE, I BET.

AFTER ALL, THEY DIDN'T GET TO SEE AMAHISA'S PITCHES FOR THEMSELVES AT ALL IN THIS GAME.

SO AMAHISA DIDN'T PITCH AT ALL, IN THE END.

...DID YOU DISCOVER SOMETHING USEFUL FOR YOURSELF, FURUYA...?

AND ICHIDAI'S RESERVE STRENGTH THAT ALLOWED THEM TO FIGHT ON PAR WITH INAJITSU EVEN WITHOUT THEIR ACE...

BETWEEN INAJITSU'S TENACITY TO SCORE ANOTHER RUN EVEN IN THE LAST STAGE OF THE GAME

.....

THAT'S THE COACH'S MESSAGE...

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, TAKE IT BACK WITH YOUR SKILLS AND ABILITY.

AS OF NOW, THE JERSEY NUMBERS ARE REVOKED AND RESET!

MY GOAL DIDN'T CHANGE.

I WILL BECOME THE BEST PITCHER IN JAPAN.

I WILL START WITH GETTING MY TEAMMATES TO ACKNOW-LEDGE ME.

BUT BEFORE THAT, FIRST,

FUH

I LIKE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE BETTER NOW.

ANOTHER 100 SWINGS, THEN..

I GOTTA IMPROVE MY CONNECTING ON THE SWEET SPOT STATS

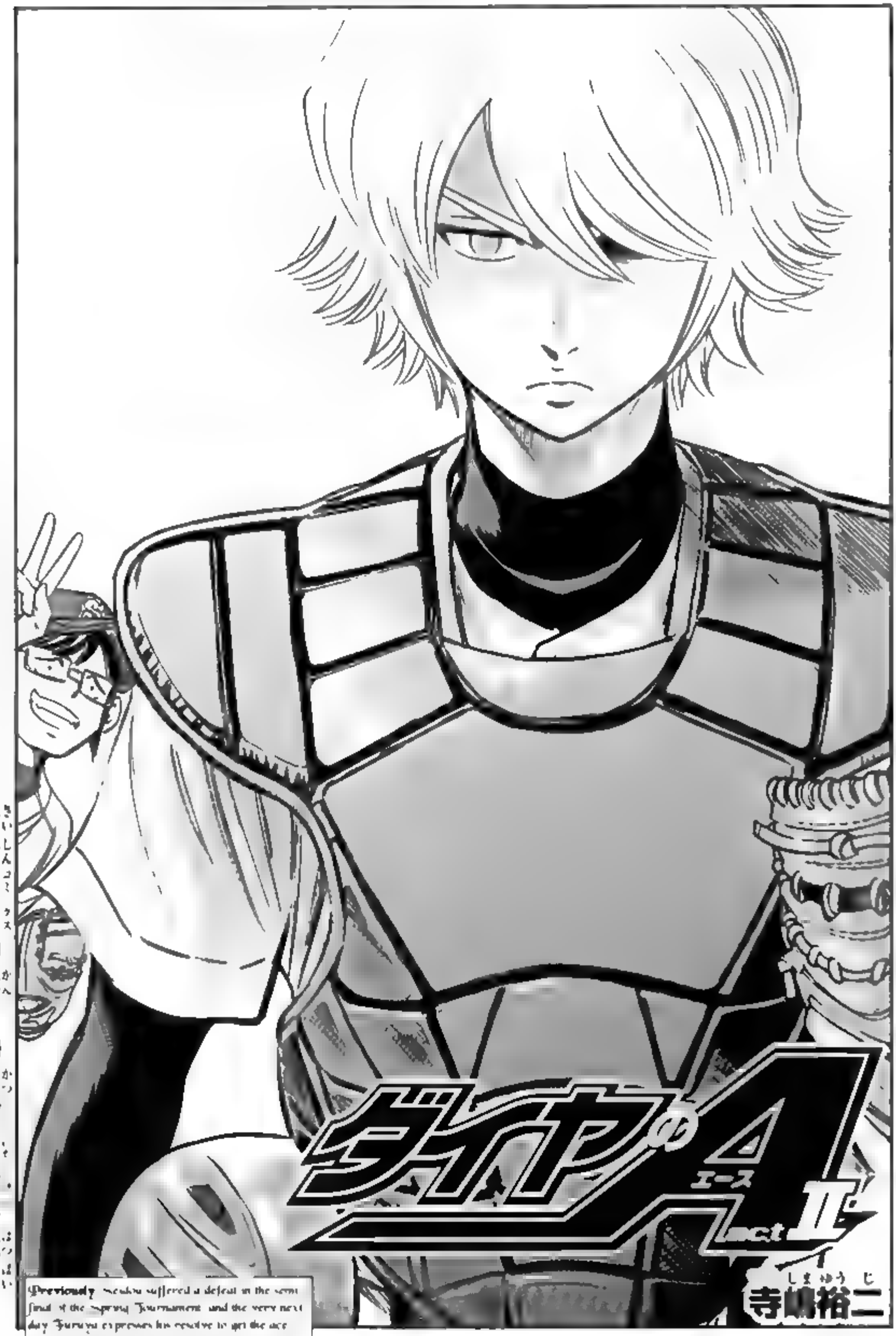
EH?

寺嶋先生サイン会in高加道まふのう街開催決定!! 詳しくはP.458のMMRをチェック!!

激戦必至!! 春季大会準々決勝・市大三高戦収録!!

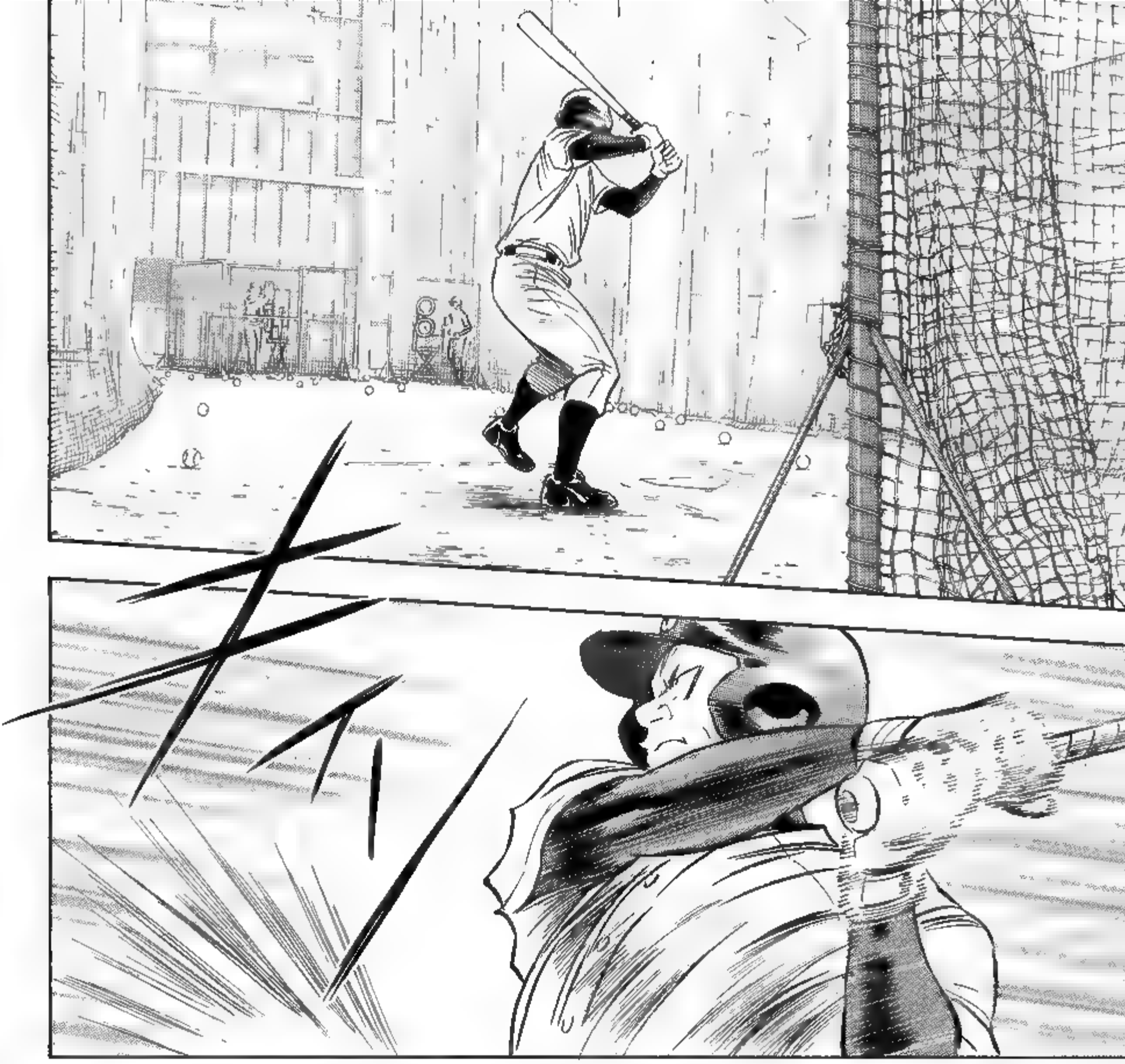
最新KC⑤巻は10月17日(月)発売!!

表紙は青道高校主将・御幸一也!!



Previously Seidou suffered a defeat in the semi-final of the spring Tournament and the very next day Furuya expresses his resolve to get the ace member again. Meanwhile Kuroishi suddenly chats up Sawamura who stayed behind at school to practice his batting. Will it turn into trouble?!

CHAPTER 52
I WANT TO CHECK IT FOR MYSELF



今日学べ

SO YOU REALLY WANT IT THAT BADLY?

THE ACE NUMBER, I MEAN.

EXPOSING YOUR GREED FOR ALL TO SEE, HUH THAT'S GOOD.

GREED ...

BECAUSE IT'S LIKE PROOF THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY EVERYONE ON THE TEAM.

OF COURSE! ANYONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF A PITCHER WOULD WANT IT!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT A PITCHER WHO'S LOUD ON THE MOUND WOULD NEVER LOOK ACE-LIKE.

BUT THE WAY YOU CARRIED YOURSELF YESTERDAY WAS REALLY GOOD...

DID YOU JUST CASUALLY CALL ME IDIOT?!

IDIOT?!

NOW, IF ONLY YOU STOPPED HOWLING WHILE ON THE MOUND, IT'D BE EVEN BETTER.

NOT TO MENTION THAT BY HOWLING, YOU ONLY END UP PROVOKING THE OPPOSING TEAM NEEDLESSLY

IT'S BAD TASTE, AND YOU MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.

GOOD ...

WHAT THE BATTERS HATE THE MOST IS PITCHERS WHO CAN KEEP A POKERFACE

I-I CAN'T TELL WHETHER HE'S COMPLEMENTING ME

OR SHAMELESSLY DISSING ME...

WAIT... SINCE I'M FEELING THIS PISSED OFF, THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT PRAISES.

AND THEN, THERE ARE YOUR NUMBERS.

ONCE YOU COMPLETE THEM, I'M SURE YOU'LL BECOME A PITCHER EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGES.

...HA...

HAHA HA!

NO?!

NO, OUT OF QUES-TION.

THEN WHY DID YOU PRAISE ME SO MUCH?!

I SEE, I SEE! SO UNDERNEATH IT ALL, YOU ACTUALLY THINK HIGHLY OF ME, HUH!

IN THAT CASE, VERY WELL!!! I'LL BE NICE AND LET BYGONES BE BYGONES!

DOES IT MEAN THAT YOU'VE DEVELOPED A DESIRE TO CATCH FOR ME?! HMM?!

I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS GUY'S HEAD AT ALL!

I-I DON'T GET HIM!

FOR NOW,

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO.

GRRAWR

But it looks like it was too soon for you to meddle with them... Kuku...

This is nothing more than the tip of the iceberg that is the Numbers.

※ PURELY HIS IMAGINATION

BUT I WILL MAKE THE FIRST STRING, WITHOUT FAIL.

AND THEN...

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW.

YOU ACT ALL COLD AND ABRASIVE, BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY A DILIGENT GUY AT HEART, HUH.

WE WERE JUST BEGINNING TO HIT IT OFF, TOO, NO?!

MAN, WHAT A HASSLE OF A GUY TO DEAL WITH YOU ARE!

DON'T JUST TURN AROUND AND LEAVE WHEN A SENPAI ISN'T FINISHED TALKING TO YOU YET!

HEY, WAIT!

スッ

HAVING FUN PLAYING BASEBALL?

THESE ARE THE WORDS I HATE WITH PASSION.

You've gotten better again, too!

Nice!

It's OK even if you make a mistake!

As long as you play with your everything.

Tch!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, STUPID BRAT

NO MATTER HOW MUCH LIP SERVICE A PERSON PAYS ON A REGULAR BASIS,

THE BIGGER THE REWARD AT STAKE IS, THE MORE GLIMPSES OF THEIR REAL SELF YOU'RE BOUND TO CATCH.

月行事予定

No, no, it can't be...

...

AND NOT JUST QUITTING BUT TRANSFERRING TO TANABE SENIOR...?!

THEY'RE THE TEAM THAT'S BEEN OUR RIVALS FOR AGES!

WHY?

WHAT?!

THE COACH IS QUITT-ING?!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY EVEN BOTHER WITH THE LIP SERVICE IN THE FIRST PLACE...?

...APPARENTLY, THIS TIME'S NO EXCEPTION, AND HE MADE QUITE A KILLING.

THAT HE'S BEEN GETTING REFERRAL FEES FOR PLAYERS FROM PLACES LIKE KUREBAYASHI AND TSURUTA...

CERTAIN RUMORS HAVE BEEN FLOATING AROUND FOR A LONG TIME NOW...

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STICK IT OUT TILL THE END, WHY BOTHER LYING AT ALL...?

NOT EVEN 2 MONTHS AFTER THAT...

THIS IS YOUR NEW COACH.

THE PERSON WE FOLLOWED AND TRUSTED SO MUCH

HAD CAST US AWAY SO EASILY...

TRUE DREAD FILLED US AT THE SIGHT...

...WE SAW HIM SITTING IN THE DUGOUT OF THE OPPOSING TEAM,

NOT ASHAMED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

WHOA~

WE'LL WIN AND HAND HIM DEFEAT WITH THE VERY BASEBALL HE'S TAUGHT US.

THAT WILL BE THE MOST FITTING PAYBACK TO HIM, DON'T YOU AGREE?

EH?

THE WORD PAYBACK, COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, HUH...

...

KOUSHUU KUN.

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TODAY'S GAME EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.

LET'S WIN, FOR SURE!

ALRI~GHT! LET'S DO THIS!

DON'T YOU FORGET THAT WE, TOO,

KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE OPPONENTS KNEW ALL ABOUT US.

AND THAT WAS PROBABLY WHY THEY LET THEIR GUARD DOWN.

ALL OUR TEAM'S MEMBERS DID THEIR ABSOLUTE BEST, APPLYING IN PRACTICE

THE TECHNIQUES AND GAMEPLAY THEORY WE HAD BEEN TAUGHT BY THAT MAN.

AS A RESULT, WE WON AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY.

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	3	2	0	1	0	1	

UMPIRE

YOU'RE LIKE DIFFERENT PEOPLE TODAY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU BOYS?

YOU SURE GAVE US A THRASHING

OH BOY~ IT'S OUR LOSS ALRIGHT!

WAHA HAHA!

I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE EVEN WITHOUT ME!

THOSE DETERMINED EXPRESSIONS YOU WORE LOOKED VERY GOOD.

I'M GLAD! I'M SO GLAD!

WAS BASEBALL FUN TO YOU THIS TIME, SIR?

Hm?

HOW ARE YOU FEELING RIGHT NOW, SIR?

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LOSE TO YOUR UNRELIABLE WARDS?

I PERSONALLY HAD FUN, YOU KNOW...

HANDING A DEFEAT TO YOU.

WAHA HAHA!

I ADMIT OUR UTTER DEFEAT TODAY!!

NAHAHA YOU SURE BEAT US. YES.

WE'RE NOT SOME TOOLS FOR MAKING GROWNUPS HAPPY...

WE GOTTA DECIDE SOON ON THE HIGH SCHOOL WE'RE GONNA GO TO, Y'KNOW

THE FIELD BELONGS TO THE PLAYERS WHO PLAY ON IT...

THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO FOCUS ON BASEBALL MORE...

I WANT TO BE IN AN ENVIRON-MENT

I WANT TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IT'S LIKE

TO PLAY FOR A STRONG TEAM...

MAKING LIFE DEFINING DECISIONS ON A WHIM?!

..YUP ON A WHIM

EARLIER, ON A WHIM, I DECIDED THAT WE'D ENROLL IN THE SCHOOL THAT WOULD WIN THIS GAME.

EH?

LET'S GO TO SEIDOU.

BECAUSE SEIDOU HAS **TWO** INTERESTING PITCHERS...

KOU-SHUU...

BUT IT WORKED OUT JUST FINE, I THINK.

I WANT TO CHECK IT FOR MYSELF...

BUT THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO MUCH FUN!

THAT'S RIGHT.

PITCHERS SURE ARE TROUBLE-SOME CREATURES.

grin

beckon

beckon

...IF THE MOMENT WHEN I CAN HAVE REAL FUN PLAYING BASEBALL REALLY EXISTS AT ALL...

I WANT TO CHECK IT FOR MYSELF...

...JUST HOW FAR MY SKILLS AND ABILITY

CAN GET ME...

PLAYED AND LOST.

WHICH IS WHY WE ARE GIVING OUR OTHER MEMBERS THE CHANCE TO SHOW US WHAT THEY'VE GOT.

EH? WE'RE GOING TO HOLD AN INTRA- SQUAD GAME RIGHT NOW?

BUT WE'VE PLAYED A MATCH JUST YESTER- DAY...

INDEED ...

SOME OF THE PLAYERS MIGHT UNDERGO ASTOUNDING GROWTH, LIKE LAST YEAR'S CROP.

IF WE PUT A HEAVY FOCUS ON TRAINING UNTIL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT,

LET US START PROMOTING ALL THE PLAYERS THAT LOOK PROMISING.

1年
1yr

3年
3yr

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH MIMURA AND THE REST ARE PUMPED UP ABOUT IT!

EH?

I HEAR KAWASHIMA S THE STARTING PITCHER

A GAME AGAINST THE FIRST YEARS IN THE AFTERNOON?

ダイヤのA

LET'S GO CHEER FOR THEM LATER.

OF COURSE THEY'D BE PUMPED UP. IF YOU DON'T SHOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT THERE, YOU MIGHT NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE!

AN INTRA-SQUAD GAME?

Yes!

BUT AREN'T THE MAIN FORCE HAVING A DAY OFF TODAY?

YOUR COMING AIN'T GONNA CHEER UP NOBODY THOUGH..

SEE!

WHY NOT?!

御幸の表紙が目印!!
最新KC⑤巻発売中!!

SO IT'S THE UPPER-CLASSMEN VS FRESHMEN, HUH.

THE SPRING FINAL MAY BE EXCITING, BUT THIS ISN'T LOSING OUT TO IT IN HOW HEATED IT IS, EH...

ダイヤのA act II

CHAPTER 53.
RITE OF PASSAGE

寺嶋裕二

FOR THE FIRST YEARS, THIS IS LIKE THE RITE OF BAPTISM BY THEIR SENPAIS.

TH S YEAR THOUGH, A LOT OF GOOD PLAYERS JO NED, NO?

IN LAST YEAR'S GAME FURUYA HAD MADE QUITE AN IMPACT WITH JUST ONE PITCH.

THE SCORE WAS DEPRESSING THOUGH

SO HE'S GOING TO BE EVALUATING US FROM UP CLOSE...
WHOA- THIS IS NERVE- WRACK- ING.
THE UMPIRE IS THE COACH HIMSELF, HUH?
I THINK I NEED TO USE THE BATH- ROOM.

THE ROSTER INCLUDES 20 SPOTS ON THE FIRST STRING,

AND 20 MORE ON THE SECOND.

IF WE MAKE THE SECOND STRING HERE, WE'LL GET MORE CHANCES TO PLAY IN PRACTICE MATCHES.

AND NOW THAT THE FIRST STRING'S JERSEY NUMBERS GOT STRIPPED OFF,

WE CAN EVEN HOPE TO GO UP ALL THE WAY TO THE FIRST STRING.

1ST STRING
20 PLAYERS
TEAM A

2ND STRING
20 PLAYERS
TEAM B

Thanks~

Good luck as the starting pitcher...

BUT BEFORE THAT, WE NEED TO MAKE THE SECOND STRING, RIGHT?

YEAH.

OKUMURA KOUSHUU.

ALTHOUGH I WAS RATHER LOOKING FORWARD TO FORMING A BATTERY WITH YOU,

9TH BATTER & PITCHER
KUKI YOUHEI

WE'RE GIVEN PLENTY OF CHANCES, TOO.

I so feel you! I wanna play, too!

Why can't we play...

TWO OUR FELLOW FIRST YEARS, YUUKI MASASHI AND YUI KAORU,

ARE ALREADY ON THE FIRST STRING.

5TH BATTER
SHORTSTOP
MOGAMI TAKESHI

4TH BATTER
RIGHT FIELDER
KAGAMI KOUTA

2ND BATTER
SECOND BASEMAN
ASAHI HIKARU

I ADVISE YOU TO BE CAREFUL WHEN LOCATING YOUR PITCHES

IT'S HIS HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT GAME, BUT HE'S NOT FLUSTERED IN THE LEAST

WHOA- KUKI-KUN IS INCREDIBLE

ON THIS TEAM, EVEN PLAYERS NOT ON THE ROSTER SWING THEIR BATS ALL THE TIME.

AND OTHER TEAMS CAN'T COMPARE WITH THE POWER THEY HAVE BEHIND THEIR HITS

RIGHT NOW, TO THEM, WE ARE PERFECT TARGETS TO BE USED...

IN ORDER TO SHOWCASE THEIR STRENGTH

AN INTRA-SQUAD GAME, HUH...

MASUKO-SENPAI HIT A BIG HOMER OFF ME,

AND I DID END UP PROMOTED TO THE SECOND STRING AS A RESULT.

BUT EVEN NOW I STILL REMEMBER HOW HAPPY I WAS JUST TO BE ABLE TO PLAY IN A GAME...

AWE-SUME

HAHA

WHOA! OVER-HEAD!

HURRY UP AND THROW

YOU IMBECIL

AW, DAMN.

I WANNA GO AND WATCH, BUT IT'S JUST OUT OF QUESTION.

I WANT TO GO CHEER FOR ASADA,

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF THE SENPAIS AND THE GUYS IN MY YEAR EITHER ...

HE~Y, KOMINATO, IF YOU DON'T GET TO THE DINING HALL SOON, THEY'LL PUT IT AWAY AND YOU WON'T GET ANY

OKAY, GOT IT.

...

HE SAID HE'S LOOKING FOR WAYS TO INCREASE THE SPEED OF HIS SWING TO MAKE UP FOR HIS SHORT STATURE.

WELL, HE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO REACH FOR SOMETHING GREATER, AND WE PROBABLY SHOULD TAKE A LESSON OR TWO FROM HIM IN THAT SENSE

IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK HE SHOULD JUST USE A METAL BAT

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S GONNA LISTEN.

KOMINATO'S DOING TEE BATTING PRACTICE?

LAST TIME, HE ALSO HAD THE BALL THROWN IN FRONT OF HIM.

HE'S BEEN TESTING OUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THE AFTER-NOON PRACTICE?

WANNA GO WATCH IT?

THE INTRA-SQUAD GAME, I MEAN.

THE INTRA-SQUAD GAME, HUH... LAST YEAR, IT WAS A DISASTER AS WE WERE COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY THE SENPAIS' DRIVE.

IT CAN'T BE TOO LATE FOR SECOND EITHER!

FIRST BASE!

WHA!

A WILD THROW TO FIRST!

WHOA... YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING...

(HE'S THAT FAR AWAY ALREADY...

THE NEXT BATTER IS MIMURA, A THIRD YEAR?

ALTHOUGH HE WAS DROPPED FROM THE SENBATSU ROSTER, HE HAS POWER GOING FOR HIM.

3RD BATTER
CENTER FIELDER
MIMURA RYOUTA
(3RD YEAR)

CRAP...

NO OUTS, RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND.

IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO FOR A CERTAIN OUT.

HOW CONSISTENT OF THEM...

THIS ONE IS GOING FOR A BUNT, TOO...

A HIT TO LEFT FIELD!!!

THE SECOND BASE RUNNER IS SPRINTING FOR THE PLATE AT FULL SPEED!

AND THE UPPER-CLASSMEN TEAM SEIZES THE LEAD!

WITH THE FOURTH BATTER UP TO BAT, NO LESS

THEY'RE STILL FACING RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND

THE PITCHER GOT TOO DESPERATE FOR AN OUT.

KUKI-KUN...

4TH BATTER & SHORTSTOP

TAKATSU HIROOMI

(2ND YEAR)

CRAP.

THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS TO BE STOPPED ASAP.

THE CATCHER MISCAUGHT THE BALL!!!

TAKATSU IS BATTING FOURTH, HUH?

THE RUNNERS ARE ADVANC-ING!!!

Ouch —

A FOURTH PITCH IS ABOUT TO BE THROWN.

THE COUNT IS 2-1.

IT GOES CLEANLY THROUGH THE GAP BETWEEN RIGHT AND CENTER!!!

2-RUN RBI FOR THE FOURTH BATTER, TAKATSU!

THE SECOND BASE RUNNER COMES HOME, SCORING A THIRD RUN FOR HIS TEAM!

DURING THE WINTER HE'S BUILT UP ENOUGH MUSCLE AND, THUS, BECOME QUITE NOTABLE IN NO TIME.

HE'S ALWAYS HAD THE TALENT BUT WAS JUST TOO WEAK PHYSICALLY..

I SEEM TO REMEMBER H M MAKING SOLID CONTACT LATELY, TOO

I HAVE TO SAY THIS FOURTH BATTER IS NOT HALF-BAD.

AND THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I'D BE WILLING TO CONCEDE TO YOU FIRST YEARS.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE FOREVER IN A PLACE WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T REACH...

12

...YOUHEI.

HE'S BEEN DOING A LOT OF PRACTICE SWINGING LATELY, NO?

SEIDOU IS NO JOKE ALRIGHT...

EVEN TOTALLY UNKNOWN GUYS WHO DIDN'T MAKE EITHER STRING

ARE THIS EFFIN GOOD...

...

IT'S GONNA BE OK.

DO I... DO I REALLY HAVE TO PITCH TO THEM?

WHOA~ THE SENPAIS ARE DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT THIS..

ALTHOUGH IT'D ONLY WORK IF HIS CATCHER HAD ENOUGH PLUCK TO ASK FOR IT WITHOUT GETTING COLD FEET ..

HIS SLIDER ISN'T BAD...

IF THROWN TO THE ZONE, NOT EVEN THE SENPAIS WOULD BE ABLE TO TOUCH IT SO EASILY.

I'LL HELP YOU WARM UP.

WHAT STUFF DO YOU PITCH?

表紙は御幸一也!!
最新KC⑤巻発売中!!

Previously: On the day of the spring tournament final, Seidou holds a 1st years vs upperclassmen intra-squad game. From the first inning, the upperclassmen launch a relentless attack on the starting pitcher of the first years team, Kuki, and score 3 runs! Can the first years make a comeback in the ongoing crisis?!

THE SHORTSTOP MIS-CATCHES!

A SECOND MISTAKE IN THIS INNING!

THE UPPER-CLASSMEN TEAM SCORES THEIR 8TH RUN!

ダイヤのA act II

CHAPTER 54
IT WILL WORK

てらじまゆうじ
寺嶋裕二

THIS IS WHAT A NATIONAL LEVEL CONTENDER TEAM IS LIKE...

チーム	一	二	三	四
1年	0	0		
3年	6	2		

2 OUTS!

THIS WAS AN IRREGULARITY! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THIS WAS AN IRREGULARITY! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THIS WAS AN IRREGULARITY! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU GUYS WHEN BALLS WILL COME FLYING YOUR WAY!

WE'LL STOP THEM HERE!

YOU CAN LET THEM HIT IN MY DIRECTION!

S-SURE! LET'S STOP THEM!

2 OUTS!

DO YOUR BEST, KUKI-KUN!

THEY DIDN'T LOSE HEART, I SEE

FOCUS ON THE BATTER!

LET HIM HIT AN INFIELD GROUN-DER!

AS THEY KEEP MAKING ERRORS AND HAVE ALREADY LOST 8 RUNS BY THE 2ND INNING...

INDEED ...

EVEN THOUGH THIS SITUATION MUST BE TAKING A TOLL ON THEM, PSYCHO-LOGICALLY,

THIS GUY... HE RESEMBLES SAWAMURA A LITTLE.

IN THAT HE'S NOT ONE TO SHOW HOW TOUGH THIS STRUGGLE IS ON HIM ON HIS FACE.

7TH BATTER
CATCHER
KARIBA
WATARU
(2ND YEAR)

...

FUH

AND FROM THAT ALONE, I THOUGHT I HAD A GOOD GRASP ON JUST HOW HIGH-LEVEL SEIDOU IS...

I KNEW THAT EVEN TOUJOU-SENPAI HAD TO STOP BEING A PITCHER AND SWITCH TO OUTFIELD INSTEAD...

BUT...

IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED FROM A TEAM THAT STRIVES TO TAKE THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP.

IF EVEN THE GUYS I'M FACING RIGHT NOW DIDN'T MAKE THE ROSTER...

...JUST HOW INSANELY GOOD THE REGULARS MUST BE?

WHY IT'S TOTALLY WORTH IT.

AND THIS IS THE PRECISE REASON

THEY TEND TO FOLLOW UP TWO FASTBALLS WITH A BREAKING BALL.

THIS BATTERY HAS A CERTAIN PATTERN THAT I'VE NOTICED:

AGH...

IT BROKE SHARPER THAN I THOUGHT...

THE FIRST BASEMAN STEPS ON THE BASE!

3 OUTS, CHANGE!

YEAH, AND THE BASE COVER WAS MUCH SWIFTER THIS T ME THEY'RE DEFINITELY GETTING BETTER

OHH. THEY HELD OFF THEIR OPPONENTS TO ONLY 2 RUNS IN THIS INNING, HUH?

Yay!

AND FOR MYSELF, I CAN SAY THAT HE IS A PLAYER WHOSE GROWTH I'M RATHER LOOKING FORWARD TO.

WELL, DUE TO A BONE FRACTURE, HE JOINED THE TEAM LATER THAN THE REST.

THIS PITCHER'S MENTAL RESILIENCE IS NOT HALF-BAD.

IF ONLY HE USED THAT SLIDER MORE EFFECTIVELY...

But it still got hit...

The senpais really are awesome, after all...

Your last slider was a good one!

KUKI YOUHEI, HUH...

HOW I WISH I COULD PLAY IN THIS GAME, TOO...

KAWASHIMA SURE IS FIRED UP, EH.
STRIKE! BATTER OUT!

NICE PITCH, KAWASHIMA-SENPAI.

HELL YEAH!

NO-HOLDS-BARRED MODE EVEN AGAINST KOUHAIS

LIKE TANBA BACK N THE DAY

HE WANTS TO RETAKE HIS SPOT ON THE ROSTER.

LET 'EM HIM MORE IN MY DIREC-TION!

NICE PITCH, KAWA-SHIMA!

2 OUTS!

ALRIGHT, LET'S END OUR TURN HERE!

GIVE US THE CHANCE TO MAKE AN IMPRES-SION, TOO!

2 OUTS!

WE, AT LEAST, HAVE GOTTEN OUR CHANCE TO TRY AND IMPRESS THE COACHES. BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WORSE OFF THAN US...

EH? A GAME IN THE AFTERNOON?

THE THIRD YEARS WHO WEREN'T GIVEN A TURN TO PLAY IN THIS MATCH...

HOWEVER, MY OBJECTIVE FOR HOLDING THAT MATCH IS TO PICK PLAYERS WHO COULD REINFORCE THE TEAM.

FOR THAT REASON, I SIMPLY CANNOT PROVIDE A TURN TO PLAY TO EACH OF YOU THIRD YEARS.

YES... WE'LL HOLD A GAME BETWEEN THE FIRST YEARS AND THE SECOND STRING

NABE I WANT YOU TO COME WITH US TOMORROW.

OK, GOT IT

WE UNDER-STAND

WE WILL TAKE TURNS AS BASE UMPIRES THEN.

AND WE WILL HELP THE REGULARS WITH THEIR INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE INSTEAD.

Nabe...

I WOULD LIKE TO GO WATCH THE FINAL WITH MY OWN EYES INSTEAD, TOO, SIR.

TO BETTER SUPPORT THE TEAM IN SUMMER...

OKAY... IT'S ON YOU THEN.

YES, SIR!

SHORT-STOP!

WE CAN'T DISGRACE THEM WITH HALF-ASSED PLAYS!

WE GOT TO STAND ON THIS FIELD IN THE THIRD YEARS' PLACE...

IT WENT IN DEEP!

OHH!

3 OUTS, CHANGE!

YEAH!

Damn...

These people have no chill in defense either—

AS EXPECTED, THE UPPER-CLASSMEN THAT HAVE BEEN TRAINING UNDER COACH KATAOKA

DO LOOK MORE UNITED THAN THE NEW STUDENTS.

THEY EACH HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ROLE...

KAWASHIMA! THE COURSE WAS WEAK AGAIN!

YOU'RE BEING SAVED BY THE BATTERS MISSING THEIR HITS!

PLAY FOR 1 MORE INNING!

YES, SIR!

FIRST YEARS!

I'M REPLACING THE BATTERY AND THE ENTIRE FIELDER LINEUP FOR YOUR TEAM!

STARTING FROM YOUR TURN ON DEFENSE IN THE 4TH, I'M SWITCHING THE LEFT FIELDER AND FIRST AND THIRD BASEMEN!

YES, SIR!

ASADA WILL PLAY PITCHER!

GET ON THE MOUND!

OKUMURA WILL TAKE OVER AS THE CATCHER!

YASSAR!

ITOU AS THE THIRD BASEMAN!

LET'S GO!

GREAT!

SETO AS THE SECOND BASEMAN!

BUT I'M NOT READY MENTALLY YET..

EH, MY TURN ALREA- OY?

GOOD LUCK, ASADA!

YOU LOOK SO STIFF!

A SOUTH-PAW OF YOUR HEIGHT...

WITH YOUR PITCHES BREAKING AT THAT ANGLE, EVEN THE SENPAIS WILL BE THROWN FOR A LOOP, I'M SURE.

IT WILL WORK.

LET'S SHOW THE SENPAIS THE GUTS

OF THE DEAD-LAST-IN-THE-DINING-HALL SQUAD.

AH...

HE MAY BE EATING SLOW,

BUT HE ALWAYS FINISHES EVERYTHING NONETHE-LESS...

THAT TIME...

WAIT...

BE QUIET AL READY

I'VE LOST MY APPETITE BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID BLABBERING.

I'M SICK OF IT

EH?!

I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHICH IT REALLY WAS WITH HIM EVER SINCE...

BECAUSE HE THOUGHT OF ME AS A COMRADE ...?

BUT WHAT IF HE SIMPLY WANTED TO STAND UP FOR ME BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE SAWAMURA-SENPAI WAS RUSHING ME WITH MY MEAL ?

I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS JUST THE KIND OF A PERSON WHO IS AS EASILY RUDE TO HIS SENPAIS AS HE BREATHES

WH

O-OKUMURA-KUN...

squeeze

I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW IF I CAN LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS...

BUT I PROMISE THAT I WILL PITCH WITH MY EVERY-THING.

I HOPE ASADA IS NOT TOO SCARED.

IS HE GONNA BE OK?

HE ISN'T GETTING PICKED ON, IS HE?

SAWA-MURA!

W-WOW ...

ASADA AND OKUMURA ARE FORMING A BATTERY ...?

EVERYONE CAN SEE YOU, MAN. INCLUDING THOSE YOU'RE HIDING FROM.

WHY ARE YOU HIDING?

SEIDO

SEIDO

IF YOU WANNA WATCH THE GAME, LET'S WATCH IT OPENLY AND PROUDLY!

最新KC⑤巻発売中!!
表紙は御幸一也だ!!

チーム 一 二 三 四
1年 0 0 0
3年 6 2

Previously: In the inter-squad game between 1st years and the upperclassmen, the upperclassmen team destroyed Kuki from the 1st inning and scored 8 runs by the 2nd. The 1st years meanwhile are hitless. In the bottom of the 3rd, the Asada-Kōshuu battery makes their debut. Can they stop the downward spiral?!

WAIT... ISN'T HE THROWING FASTER THAN ME?!

A PRECISION THROW RIGHT TO THE BASE.

OOH...

ASADA ~~!

GO FULL THROTTLE!

A CHANCE TO SEIZE VICTORY WILL COME OUR WAY NO DOUBT
GTO
II
CHAPTER 55
AGGRESSIVE STAND
寺嶋裕二

WHAT A CRUEL GAME.

TO SUM IT UP ..

BUT HE DOES HAVE THAT HEIGHT GOING FOR HIM.

SO IT WILL DEPEND ON HIS CONTROL.

MOREOVER, THEY HAVE NO COACHES TO COORDINATE THEIR TEAM FROM THE DUGOUT. THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN PUT UP A DECENT FIGHT LIKE THIS.

THE FIRST YEARS HAVEN'T EVEN SERIOUSLY STARTED TO PRACTICE YET, AND THEY HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ONE ANOTHER AS PLAYERS,

YET THEY'RE FORCED TO FIGHT THE SENPAIS DESPITE HUGE UNCERTAINTIES AND LACK OF INFORMATION.

EH?!

A CH CHANCE.. TO SEIZE VICTORY?

UWAAH. IT'S START-ING.

IT'S REALLY START-ING.

BUT WELL...

WHAT THE HEAD COACH IS LOOKING FOR IS PLAYERS WHO CAN LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION EVEN DESPITE THE HOPELESS SITUATION. THEIR TEAM IS PUT IN

AH?
AH?
AN AFRICAN
PLANNING
TO INVADE
THE MIDDLE
EAST--
I DON'T
TELL ME
THESE
PEOPLE--

THIS BATTER MAY BE ONLY EIGHTH IN THE LINEUP, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT OUR SENPAIS ARE STRONG, ASADA.

SO DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

Quit hiding

Owww! Stop it!

MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT PITCHES TO CALL, WOLF BOY.

BECAUSE ASADA IS A NAIVE AND PURE-HEARTED GUY.

A FASTBALL TO THE OUTSIDE FOR THE FIRST PITCH.

I FEARED HE MIGHT CALL FOR A MORE RECKLESS COURSE, BUT HE WENT WITH A COMMON SAFE LOCATION.

ASADA HIROFUMI,

MAKING HIS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL DEBUT, NOW.

...ABOUT HOW WELL I CAN PITCH

OF COURSE HE DID BECAUSE HE CAN'T HELP BEING WORRIED

UH--

OVER THE HEAD OF THE LEFT FIELDER!!!

WAAA AAH!!!

DEAD RIGHT OFF THE BAT!!!

THE LEADOFF BATTER KAWASHIMA WASTES NO TIME AND HITS A DOUBLE!

AAA AAH ...

!!

See!

IF THAT PITCH WAS THE FASTEST HE CAN THROW, HE'S IN TROUBLE

THE CATCHER ASKED FOR AN OUTSIDE PITCH, BUT THE PITCHER THREW PRETTY MUCH RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

MMUH MUH MUH MUH

IF HE'S NOT CAREFUL, HE'LL END UP FACING A BARRAGE OF HITS!

THANKS GOODNESS THAT HE STOPPED AT SECOND...

Eh?
NO, IT WASN'T TOO BAD
IF ANYTHING, I'M RELIEVED
TIMEOUT PLEASE.
SORRY
I TENSED UP AND THREW DOWN THE MIDDLE.
...
...
IF YOU'D GIVEN INTO THE URGE TO RUN AWAY FROM THE FIGHT, IT WOULDN'T HAVE GONE INTO THE STRIKE ZONE AT ALL.
NOW, LET'S DO IT!
...!!
SO SWING YOUR ARM FULLY LIKE YOU JUST DID.
THAT WAY, WHEN IT'S TIME TO THROW YOUR CURVEBALL, THE GAP WILL BE EVEN BIGGER

SO HE'S RELAXED ENOUGH TO BE PRETTY LOUD NOW, EH

KOUSHUU MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE'S PRETTY DARN GOOD AT MOTIVATING HIS PITCHERS

NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL

YES, SIR!

AH... OKAY, IT WAS A REFLEX!

BOTTOM OF THE 3RD: NO OUTS, RUNNER ON 2ND

A BUNTING STANCE DOESN'T AT ALL MEAN THAT HE'LL BE GENEROUS ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU AN OUT

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO BUNT

FOCUS ON THE BATTER AND SWING YOUR ARM ALL THE WAY.

BUT THEN, IN THE PREVIOUS INNINGS, THEY

9TH BATTER
LEFT FIELDER
KOUDA AKIHIRO
(3RD YEAR)

TALL PLAYERS HAVE BIG, NOTICEABLE MOVEMENTS, SO IT'S EASY FOR RUNNERS TO RUN ON THEM.

YEAH, HE'S BEEN DOING THAT A LOT

STARTING FROM WHEN THERE WERE NO RUNNERS THIS PITCHER'S BEEN THROWING FROM THE STRETCH, HASN'T HE?

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHEN MY SENSEI TOLD ME THIS, IT BROUGHT ME DOWN QUITE A BIT.

BUT I DID A RESEARCH AND CAME UP WITH MY OWN STYLE TO LESSEN THAT RISK.

A PITCHER WITHOUT USEFUL PITCHING IDIOSYNCRASIES LIKE ME OFTEN HAS TO PITCH WITH RUNNERS...

STRIKE!!!

THIS LITTLE...

SURPRISINGLY, HE'S KEEPING HIS CALM JUST FINE.

Nice pitch

IS IT BECAUSE I SWUNG MY ARM ALL THE WAY?

THE SOUND OF THE BALL ON THE MITT WAS GOOD THIS TIME ..

FIRST BASE!

UNDER-STOOD!

A BUNT ON THE SECOND PITCH!

SACRIFICE BUNT IS A SUCCESS!

1 OUT, RUNNER ON THIRD!

GOOD! I TOOK 1 OUT!

PHEW

WHAT'S GOING TO BE OF INTEREST IS HOW EXACTLY THEY W LL GO ABOUT IT

1ST BATTER
RIGHT FIELDER
OKA KENICHI
(2ND YEAR)

THIS .S WHERE THE UPPER-CLASSMEN WILL START SCORING LOTS

OKAY THEN, FROM HERE ON OUT, HE'S UP AGAINST THE TOP OF THE LINEUP

IS HE FOR REAL ...?

WE'RE MOVING CLOSER TO THE PLATE!

FORWARD! SHIFT FORWARD!

HHH

EVEN IF THEY AVOID LOSING ANOTHER RUN HERE, IT W LL CHANGE NOTHING

Hoo...

HEY, HEY, DID THEY FORGET THEY'RE 8 RUNS DOWN ALREADY?!

AN INFIELD SHIFT ...?!

WHAT THEY WANT TO DRIVE HOME HERE IS THEIR AGGRESSIVE STAND...

...NO.

THEIR STRONG DETERMINATION TO

NOT GIVE UP ON THIS GAME...

WE'LL MAKE THE KILL AT HOME PLATE!

PITCH TO CONTACT, ASADA!

WE'LL STOP THEM HERE!

I'LL STOP THEM! WITH MY BODY IF NECES-SARY!

YOU GUYS JUST DON'T KNOW YET HOW POWERFUL THE SENPAIS' SWING IS!!!

YEAH, BRING IT!

GO, ASADA!

BE AGGRE-SSIVE!

FOCUS ON THE BATTER!

WE'LL STOP THEM!

IT'S LIKE THESE CHEERS ARE PUSHING ME IN THE BACK...

-LIWAAH...-

HE'LL GO AFTER YOUR FIRST PITCH!

SWING YOUR ARM WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!

WE'LL HANDLE ANY FLIES FOR YOU!

WHAT THE HELL... THEY'RE CHEERING FOR HIM WAY MORE THAN WHEN I WAS PITCHING!

DAMMIT... I REALLY WANTED TO HAVE A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BATTERY WITH YOU...

...

...OKUMURA KOUSHUU...

THE ATMOSPHERE SURE CHANGED AFTER THE FIELDER LINEUP GOT SWITCHED.

IF THEY CAN PULL THROUGH WITHOUT LOSING ANY RUNS HERE, THE GAME FLOW WILL CHANGE AS WELL!

I-I've got to do it...

Special Thanks

Raws

Eiji

Redrawer

Hoshi no Saikuru

ダイヤのA エース

Ace of Diamond

TDX release

SPECIAL HOT FEATURE!

FOCUS ON THE CLASH OF THE TWO POWERHOUSES' ACES IN THE SEMIFINAL OF THE SPRING TOURNAMENT!

INAJITSU NARUMIYA MEI VS. TEITOU MUKAI TAIYOU

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2 GREAT ACES!

WEST TOKYO

INASHIRO JITSUGYOU

NARUMIYA MEI

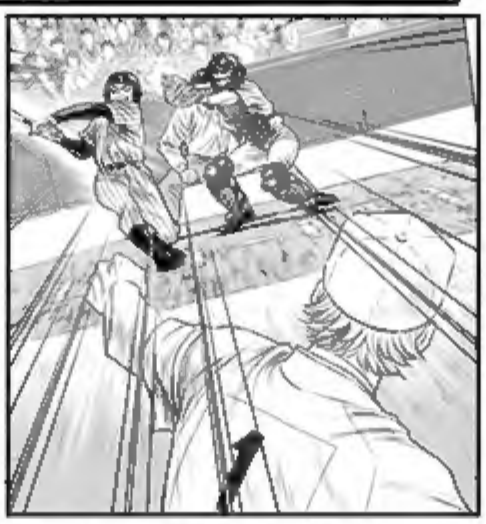
HE HAS ONLY ONE GOAL: TO BECOME THE BEST IN JAPAN!

3RD YEAR
THROWS LEFT
BATS LEFT

PITCHER DATA

- KOUSHIEN RUNNER-UP PITCHER
- STRONG PRO-LEVEL FASTBALL
- TOYS WITH BATTERS VIA HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL BREAKS

SPRING KEY POINT



He held off Yakushi's powerful batters to only 2 hits and repeatedly struck out their main cannon, Todoroki Raichi!

FALL TOURNAMENT PLAYBACK

Unbelievable defeat in the 2nd round: Ugumori scored 2 runs off the conceited pitcher who tried to play all by himself.

BATTERY INFO

TADANO ITSUKI

2ND YEAR

Strives to attain the ability to make pitch calls that will make the best use of Narumiya as a pitcher.

EAST TOKYO

TEITOU HIGH

MUKAI TAIYOU

HE POURS HIS EVERY-THING INTO HIS PITCHES FOR HIS TEAM'S VICTORY AS HE DEFENDS THE MOUND FOR THE PRESTIGEOUS SCHOOL, TEITOU HIGH.

2ND YEAR
THROWS LEFT
BATS RIGHT

PITCHER DATA

- PLAYED AT KOUSHIEN AS A FIRST YEAR
- PITCHING STYLE THAT WIDELY USES THE CORNERS OF THE STRIKE ZONE
- WINNING SHOT: SCREWBALL

SPRING KEY POINT

Relentless attack on the inside! He howls as he overcomes a very dangerous situation!

FALL TOURNAMENT PLAYBACK

He took a gamble against Seidou and lost it, suffering disappointing defeat in the 1st round. A momentary lapse in judgement cost him the game...

BATTERY INFO

INUI KENGO

3RD YEAR

Provides support to Mukai as the 4th batter and, of course, as a catcher with his game calling.

THE 1ST ダイヤのA CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL

CONTINUED FROM PAGES 1-2

PLACES FROM 11TH DOWN REVEALED, TOO!

NOW IT IS TIME TO REVEAL THOSE WHO TRIED BUT FAILED TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP 10!

Place		Votes
31	Kamiya Carlos Toshiki	55
	Fujiwara Takako	
33	Umemiya Seiichi	48
34	Matsubara Nao	47
35	Kusunoki Fumiya	44
36	Takashima Rei	42
37	Tanba Kouichirou	38
38	Masu Shinichirou	34
39	Hongou Masamune	33
40	Todoroki Raizou	29
41	Yuuki Masashi	27
42	Maezono Kenta	26
	Wakabayashi Gou	
44	Asou Takeru	25
45	Masuko Tooru	24
46	Amahisa Kousei	22
47	Mishima Yuuta	21
48	Akamatsu Shinji	20
49	Enjou Renji	18
	Ochiai Hiromitsu	
51	Takatsu Hiroomi	17
52	Kuki Youhey	15
	Natsukawa Yui	
54	Miyuki Hiroyuki	14
55	Asada Hirofumi	10
	Umemoto Sachiko	
	Terajima-sensei	
	Nishi Hideo	

Place		Votes
59	Kijima Rei	8
60	Inui Kengo	7
	Oota Kazuyoshi	
	Yoshizawa Hideaki	
63	Kariba Wataru	6
	Sawamura Eitoku	
	Tachi Hiromi	
66	Ogawa Tsunematsu	5
	Ono Hiroshi	
	Kadota Masaaki	
	Kominato mom	
	George Animal M	
	Tahara Toshihiko	
	Manaka Kaname	
73	Oowada Akiko	4
	Vice principal	
	Sakai Ichirou	
	Stray cat gang	
77	Akiba Kazuma	3
	Araki Ichirou	
	Kunitomo Hiroshige	
	Miyuki dad	
	Mima Souichirou	
	Maki Yosuke	
	Mitsuishi Youji	
	Miyauchi Keisuke	
	Yoshizawa Akimitsu	
86	Azuma Kiyokuni	2

Place		Votes
	Nitta Kouzou	
	Inamoto Masaaki	
	Oda Akane	
	Kaneda Tadahiro	
	Kikukawa Sanae	
	Tomobe Sakito	
	Hayakawa Taiga	
	Yoshimoto Zenjirou	
	Watanabe Tatsuya	
96	Iguchi Yuudai	1
	Ibushi Jouta	
	Magome Yahiro-sensei	
	Ezaki Suguru	
	Oomae Takahiro	
	Okamoto Ippachi	
	Kimura Masahiro	
	Money making wood	
	Kudou Yasashi	
	Kumakiri Jin	
	Kuroki Anna	
	Kojima Ryouhei	
	Kominato dad	
	Yonehara Yuu	
	Kondou Daiki	
	Sawamura dad	
	Sawamura mom's croquettes	
	Shima Ryouhei	
	Sugi Ryouhei	

96	Furuya Eiji
	Tanaka Shin
	Tamaki
	Chiba Junichi
	Terui Tadashi
	Higasa Shouji
	Nakata Ataru
	Nagata Shouhei
	Nishidera Gou
	Ninomiya Masahiro
	Hayashida Masayoshi
	Hirai Tsubasa
	Hirano Jeiji
	Hirahata Ryou
	Fukui Kento
	Fukuda Daiki
	Fujikawa Shinya
	Furuya mom
	Soyogi Katsumi
	Maruse Ichitarou
	Mine Fujio
	Murakami Kazuma
	Mogami Takeshi
	Yabe Kouji
	Yamaoka Takeru
	Yamaguchi Gen
	Yamazaki Kunio

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY VOTES!